

Lawsuit Leads to Hyundai Santa Fe Recall, Attorneys Continue to Investigate Defects

Phoenix – Attorneys with consumer-rights law firm Hagens Berman today announced that the firm has reached a settlement with Hyundai (KSE: 005380) that allows some owners to return defective vehicles if the company cannot repair them.

The settlement addresses allegations that the airbags in some 2007-2009 Hyundai Santa Fe crossover vehicles failed to deploy in some types of collisions.

In response to the lawsuit, Hyundai has ordered a recall of about 200,000 vehicles, the latest in a series of recalls totaling about 1.3 million vehicles that began in 2006.

“We negotiated a settlement that is very favorable to consumers, giving Hyundai owners the ability to return their vehicle if the settlement’s software upgrade does not fully solve the problem,” said Hagens Berman attorney Rob Carey, who represents the Santa Fe owners. “This is especially important when it comes to something as critical as an airbag, a safety feature mandated by federal law.”

The settlement will be filed in court by Aug. 17, 2012. Once it is on file, it must be approved by the court, but the recall will occur even if the settlement is not approved.

Hagens Berman has handled numerous automotive safety defect cases in recent years and is co-lead counsel in the Toyota sudden, unintended acceleration (SUA) case in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

“Whether it is a class action to cure the problem or a single suit on behalf of an injured family, settlements addressing airbag and OCS defects have to be handled with the utmost care. Unfortunately, it seems that lawsuits are the only way to force automakers to address safety issues,” said Carey. “Vigilant consumers can help—consumers who believe their cars have a safety defect should come forward because it can help save lives.”

Hagens Berman continues to investigate potential safety defects in vehicles, especially those relating to occupant classification systems and airbags that do not deploy properly in a serious collision.

Car owners or lessees who have experienced a safety issue, especially involving airbags that failed to deploy, can contact Hagens Berman by calling (206) 623-7292 or by emailing HyundaiAirbags@hbsslaw.com. More information is available at <http://www.hbsslaw.com/cases-and-investigations/hyundai>.

About Hagens Berman

Seattle-based Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP is a consumer-rights class-action law firm with offices in 10 cities. Founded in 1993, HBSS continues to successfully fight for consumer rights in large, complex litigation. The firm has been named one of the top plaintiffs’ law firms in the country five times by the National Law Journal. More information about the law firm and its successes can be found at www.hbsslaw.com.

Contact: Mark Firmani, Firmani + Associates Inc., 206.443.9357 or mark@firmani.com