

US expands Hyundai Elantra air bag probe

September 17 2012

(AP)—U.S. safety regulators have added two model years to an investigation of an air bag problem with Hyundai Elantras that cut a car owner's ear in half.

The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) says it will look into 2011 and 2013 Elantras in addition to those from 2012. The agency also upgraded the probe to an engineering analysis, a step closer to a recall. No cars have been recalled.

The agency started investigating 123,000 2012 Elantras in May. But Monday it said only Korean-built Elantras have the part that caused the problem. About 75,000 were sold in the U.S.

In April, an Elantra owner told investigators a side [air bag](#) inflated in a crash and a metal bracket sliced the driver's ear.

[Hyundai](#) says the problem appears to be isolated.

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