



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

FEB 24 2005

[REDACTED]

New York, NY [REDACTED]

NVS-216JCC
Ref. #10096800

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 1, 2004, concerning the problems you have encountered with your 1998 Toyota Camry vehicle. Your correspondence was received on October 6, 2004. Due to limited resources we were not able to respond to you in a more timely manner. We regret any inconvenience our delay may have caused you.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to the suspension system in 1998 Toyota Camry vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Further, we would like to obtain specific information concerning the suspension problems you have encountered (e.g., a copy of all relevant service invoices, a list of components that were replaced, and a detailed description of events surrounding each failure). Please fill out and return the enclosed pre-addressed, postage-paid Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ). The information you provide will be entered into our database and considered with other reports to identify any safety-related defect trends that may require our attention. Please mark the appropriate authorization box and sign the form. Your information may assist the Toyota Motor North America, Inc., and NHTSA in determining if a safety-related defect exists.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236

You can contact our toll-free DOT Auto Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236). One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A DOT Hotline representative will return your call.

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic VOQ is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Safety Defects Program Assistant, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto A. Jimenez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure