



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

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

OCT 10 2006

NVS-216 et  
Ref. # 10170134

[REDACTED]  
Minnetonka, MN [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 15, 2006, concerning the problem you encountered with your model year (MY) 2000 Lexus LS 400 vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on September 21, 2006. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

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 determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or safety defect recall adequacy is warranted.

In 2003 a Lexus LS series owner submitted a petition (DP03-003, resume enclosed) to the agency to investigate whether the model year (MY) 1997 through MY 1996 Lexus LS and GS series vehicles contain a safety-related defect that could cause these vehicles to unintentionally accelerate and move without pressing the accelerator. The agency's Office of Defects Investigation analyzed all data available to determine whether the petition should be granted. The petition was denied. The reasons for denying the petition are provided on the enclosed pages of the Federal Register. No significant evidence has been received to warrant re-opening of the investigation.

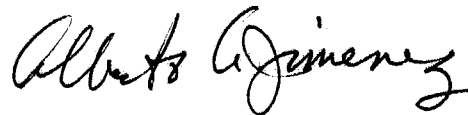


DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE  
888-DASH-2-DOT  
888-327-4236

You can contact our toll-free NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-DASH-2-DOE (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 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. A Monthly Defect Report is available on that site that provides a listing of current investigations. Enter "Monthly Defect Report" in the **NHTSA Search** capability to locate the reports. An electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (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. If you do not have access to the Internet, please use the enclosed VOQ to inform this agency of any future motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment safety problems you may experience. 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>.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure