



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

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

February 21, 2007

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Madison, WI [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mw
Ref. # 10181607

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 8, 2007 concerning the difficulty you encountered with the starter in your Model Year (MY) 2004 Toyota Prius vehicle. The State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection referred your case (File #476872) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. Your correspondence was received on January 26, 2007. 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.

Careful research into NHTSA's database revealed other consumer complaints that closely relate to your starter problems, and a Toyota Recall (NHTSA#98V016) for the starter motor relay switch in MY 2005 Prius. A copy of the recall notification is enclosed for your review. We suggest that you contact your local Toyota dealership to schedule the service remedy. 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 is warranted.

You can contact our toll-free NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline at 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.



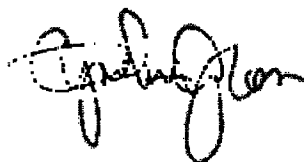
DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236



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. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Glass".

Cynthia Glass, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure(s)