



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 15, 2008



NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10226233

Dear 

Thank you for your email correspondence dated April 25, 2008, concerning your model year (MY) 1991 Toyota 4x4 pickup. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on April 28, 2008.

On behalf of NHTSA, please accept our sincere condolences for the tragic death of your son in a car crash. We certainly understand and commend your efforts to ensure that a similar crash does not occur. Our primary mission at NHTSA is to help reduce the frequency and severity of such crashes through developing and enforcing Federal vehicle safety standards, ensuring the recall of vehicles and vehicle equipment containing safety related defects, and promoting educational efforts on highway safety.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. With regard to your inquiry, vehicles included in NHTSA Campaign No. 05V-389 are entitled to one of the following under the Safety Act; replacement of the steering relay rod as a remedy associated with the recall or reimbursement for steering relay rod replacement paid for not more than a year prior to notification. There is no relating time limit for these entitlements.

Please be advised that our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, damage caused by the defect, etc.). Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to reimburse vehicle owners for any costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect. We regret that we are unable to assist you further with this matter.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. 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 that reads "Ronald B. Fields". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ronald B. Fields, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement