

**INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)**



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

September 23, 2010

[REDACTED]  
Berkeley, CA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et  
Ref. No.10320338

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2005 Toyota Prius vehicle. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding 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 safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. 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 appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In your letter you indicated that you have encountered unintended acceleration and brake problems on several occasions in your MY 2005 Prius. You reported the problems to the manufacturer and a dealer that performed repairs; however, you still encountered brake failure.

We understand your concerns for the unintended acceleration and the brake problems you experienced. The MY 2005 Toyota Prius is not included in the recent recalls announced by Toyota that address unintended acceleration or inconsistent brake feel after ABS actuation. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation is actively reviewing and assessing all available data concerning brake problems in MY 2005 Toyota Prius vehicles; however, no determinations have been reached at this time. As for your unintended acceleration concerns, the agency has opened a recall query (RQ10-003, summary enclosed) requesting additional information from Toyota to understand and evaluate more fully among other things, whether the scope of the recalls identified (makes, models, and model years) is sufficiently broad.



In addition, NHTSA is undertaking a comprehensive look into the safety of electronic throttle control (ETC) systems in all vehicles sold in the United States equipped with that technology. The agency has procured help from scientists and other experts in areas such as computer controlled electronic systems, electromagnetic interference, and software integrity. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is conducting a short-term review of ETC systems used in Toyota vehicles to determine whether they contain any possible flaws that could cause unintended acceleration. NASA's expertise in electronics, hardware, software, hazard analysis, and complex problem solving ensures this review will be comprehensive. The NASA review of the ETC systems in Toyota vehicles should be completed by the end of the year.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq> or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. 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 cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement