



JUL 13 2010

CL-10329410-2534

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Consumer Litigation  
Civil Division  
Washington, DC 20530

July 8, 2010

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Hoffman Estates, IL [REDACTED]

Re: 2009 Toyota Camry Tire Safety

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter is in reply to your correspondence to the Attorney General, dated June 18, 2010, which was referred to this Office for consideration and response. I regret the delayed response. Your letter is in regard to your concerns about the tire safety on your 2009 Toyota Camry. You allege that it is "virtually impossible" to use a spare tire on this vehicle without the use of additional equipment not provided by the manufacturer. You believe that Toyota needs to remedy this defect and/or disclose this information to the public.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the federal agency that investigates reports of safety related defects and substantial equipment failures and enforces laws requiring recalls and remedies in appropriate circumstances. Accordingly, I am forwarding your inquiry to the agency indicated below that may be able to assist you or provide you with additional information on this subject.

For your information, I have enclosed the following two brochures from their website on tire safety: "Tire Safety Checklist" and "Tire Safety-Everything Rides On It." Both of these brochures can be accessed online at:

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

If you have not yet done so, you may wish to consult a private attorney who could advise you of your rights and any remedies that may be available to you.

I appreciate your concern and wish to thank you for contacting the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Jost  
Deputy Director  
Office of Consumer Litigation  
Civil Division

By: Jamie Albrecht  
Consumer Affairs Specialist

MC  
072610  
TGW

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
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NVS200

Enclosures

cc:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, SW, Rm. 5232  
Washington, DC 20590  
Toll free DOT Safety Hotline: 1-888-327-4236 (DASH 2 DOT)  
TTY: 1-800-424-9153  
**[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)**

1885739 (25)

[REDACTED]  
Hoffman Estates, IL [REDACTED]

June 18, 2010

CM/CL

Eric Holder,  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Honorable Eric Holder,

I contacted Toyota Motor Corporation headquarters in Japan relative to an issue with a 2009 Toyota Camry. They have chosen to ignore a legitimate issue with grave ramifications. I attempted to rotate the wheels and was not able to do so; the wheels are designed such that removal using normal means is impossible. Toyota stated that tires must be rotated every 5,000 miles in order to ensure that wheels will break free with a hub. I took the vehicle to Schaumburg Toyota where the vehicle was serviced. The service representative told me that the service technician used a sledge hammer to remove the wheels. When I returned home, I still had to use a 3 pound hammer while delivering heavy blows to the inside steel rim to break the tires loose.

Vehicles are sold with spare tires to provide a means to remedy potential serious consequences: a flat tire in an unsafe location where there is no readily available service. The employment of a spare tire is not conditional, in that the manufacture provides "all" necessary equipment to change a tire. However, unless one carries a very heavy hammer, it is impossible to change a 2009 Toyota Camry wheel. I lifted heavy weights during and after attending the university; if I cannot remove a tire, an extremely limited number of people, if any, would be able to remove a tire from a 2009 Toyota Camry. Toyota sells vehicles where individuals purchase the vehicles with certain expectations. Toyota does not disclose that it is virtually impossible to use the spare tire.

I believe that Toyota needs to remedy the defect but will not do so without strong encouragement; the issue merits your attention. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

CM - 11417

WC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hoffman Estates, IL

[REDACTED]

CAROL STREAM IL 601

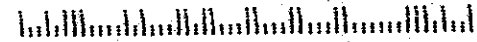
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HON. ERIC HOLDER  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Dept. of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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