



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# Memorandum

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

---

Subject: Vehicle Inspection Summary

Date: May 12, 2011

From: Michael Lee, Safety Defects Engineer  
Office of Defects Investigation

To: VOQ No. 10393785

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ No. 10393785) that alleged the driver's frontal air bag in a 2008 Toyota Corolla became dislodged from the steering wheel during a crash (the air bag did not deploy during the crash). On April 29, 2011, staff members of ODI and Toyota met to examine an exemplar 2008 Toyota Corolla to understand the alleged problem condition and any potential symptoms of loose or missing attachment screws that are intended to secure the air bag module assembly to the steering wheel. The inspection took place at Central Atlantic Toyota in Glen Burnie, Maryland. ODI staff members in attendance were Scott Yon and Michael Lee. Toyota staff members in attendance were Chris Peterson, Mark Slade, Stefan Brand, and Wayne Gates.

The inspection revealed that the vehicle remains functional (including the air bags and horn) without the two attachment screws installed as long as the air bag module assembly is placed in its normal position in the steering wheel. A test drive, including going over speed bumps and tapping on the horn/air bag module, did not cause a rattle or loosen the air bag module from its normal position when: 1) the screws were fully backed off (not inserted in the threaded hole of the module) and 2) the screws were pushed in the plastic trim panel in a stowed condition such as would be the case for assembly purposes. See the photos below.





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# Memorandum



Right attachment screw  
properly secured in  
driver air bag module.



Condition 1 described in  
the text with driver air  
bag module removed  
from steering wheel.



Condition 2 described in  
the text with driver air  
bag module removed  
from steering wheel.