



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2011

Chicago, IL

NVS-216 mec
Ref. # 10394592

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2002 Toyota Avalon vehicle. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation.

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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

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 encountered unintended acceleration in your MY 2002 Toyota Avalon vehicle. You feel that your vehicle should be included in the recalls that address unintended acceleration in certain Toyota vehicles.

We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to unintended acceleration in MY 2002 Toyota Avalon vehicles. The MY 2002 Toyota Avalon uses a different accelerator pedal than that produced by CTS, which is being recalled. In addition, there has been no evidence of unintended acceleration caused by pedal entrapment; therefore, your vehicle is not included in the recalls.

The United States Department of Transportation released results from an unprecedented 10-month study of potential causes of unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles. NHTSA launched the study last spring at the request of Congress, and enlisted National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineers with expertise in areas such as computer controlled electronic systems, electromagnetic interference and software integrity to conduct research into whether electronic systems or electromagnetic interference played a role in incidents of unintended acceleration.

NASA engineers found no electronic flaws in Toyota vehicles capable of producing the large throttle openings required to create dangerous high-speed unintended acceleration incidents. The two mechanical safety defects identified by NHTSA more than a year ago - "sticking" accelerator pedals and design flaws that enable accelerator pedals to become trapped - remain the only known causes for these kinds of unsafe unintended acceleration incidents.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is conducting a broad review of unintended acceleration and electronic throttle control systems. The ongoing NAS study is examining unintended acceleration and electronic vehicle controls across the entire automotive industry, will also make recommendations to NHTSA. The NAS study was launched in spring 2010 alongside the NHTSA-NASA investigation and will be finalized later this year. The NHTSA Executive Summary and NHTSA Full Report for the NHTSA-NASA investigation of unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles can be located online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Since 2009 Toyota recalled slightly more than 10 million vehicles as part of the sticky pedal and pedal entrapment recalls. Toyota also paid \$48.8 million in civil penalties as the result of NHTSA investigations into the timeliness of several safety recalls last year. Across the industry, automakers voluntarily initiated a record number of safety recalls in 2010.

For your information, we have enclosed a brochure explaining the investigation process which can also be found on our web site at: www.odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or 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,



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

Enclosure