



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 06 2012

[REDACTED]
Santa Ana, CA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10423465

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence to President Obama concerning your model year (MY) 2003 Toyota Tacoma truck. The White House forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and asked that we respond to you directly.

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 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 cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You allege that your MY 2003 Toyota Tacoma crashed into another vehicle impacting the front passenger tire causing the front tires to rotate backwards into the steering wheel resulting in injuries to you. In addition, you indicate that the front air bag did not deploy during the crash. You believe there is a faulty design with the clearance ratio between the front tires and fender in MY 2003 Toyota Tacoma trucks and that they should be recalled.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to front tire-to-fender clearance and air bag non-deployment in MY 2003 Toyota Tacoma trucks. NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation is actively monitoring all available data concerning air bag non-deployment in Toyota Tacoma trucks; however, no determinations have been reached at this time. There is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation regarding front tire and fender clearance.



[REDACTED]

We recommend that you make sure your MY 2003 Toyota Tacoma is equipped with the correct size tires. The largest tire size option for your vehicle according to the manufacturer's original equipment specification is T235/55R16. 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. A brochure explaining our investigation and recall process is enclosed for your information or you may visit our website at:
www.odinhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/process.cfm.

As for your statement regarding a warning to Toyota, we strongly recommend that you do not engage in an illegal act with your vehicle.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Frank S. Borris, Director, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-2631.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Lewis
Associate Administrator
for Enforcement

Enclosure