



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 30, 2013

[REDACTED]
Brodhead, WI [REDACTED]

NVS-216 rrr
Ref. No. 10509460

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2004 Toyota Tacoma truck. 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 safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. 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 trend may exist. We do not have the authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicate in December 2012, you were informed of a recall on your MY 2004 Toyota Tacoma truck. You state the recall addresses a problem with the spare tire holder separating from underneath the truck due to rust corrosion. As of April 24, 2013, you still have not been notified by Toyota on their plan to repair the problem.

Due to the volume of vehicles involved in a recall (NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 12V-542, summary enclosed) Toyota is conducting the recall in phases. Toyota began mailing recall notifications to owners of MY 2001 through MY 2004 Toyota Tacoma 4WD trucks in April 2013. The recall notification mailings for those owners will conclude in May 2013. Please note that it is not unusual for manufacturers to not have an adequate inventory of recall parts shortly after a recall is announced. Some manufacturers limit the volume of recall parts they automatically deliver to dealers. Also, they may limit dealer orders to avoid waste for parts they do not need. We recommend that you continue to contact Toyota and your dealer for updates on the availability of the recall parts for your truck.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov 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 our Web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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

Enclosure

Recall Detail

Recall Num: 12 V 542 000	573 Date: 21-NOV-2012	573 Date Rcvd: 23-NOV-2012	Potentially Affected: 150,000	Potentially Defective: 150,000
Mfr Recall Num:		Remedy Type: Fix/Repair	RP Num:	FMVSS Num:
Subject: Spare Tire Carrier may Fail		NHTSA Inv Num:	Influenced by: MFR	
Recall Type: Defect	Recall Effect: Crash Avoidance	Manufacturer: Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing	Recall Status: CONDUCTING RECALL	
Problem Exp: Complaints				

Problem Descr: Toyota is recalling certain model year 2001 through 2004 Tacoma light trucks manufactured from August 28, 2000, through August 27, 2004, and originally sold, or currently registered, in the following cold climate states with high road salt usage: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia. The spare tire in the subject vehicles is located underneath the rear of the vehicle and held by a spare tire carrier. A lift plate on the carrier is used to help raise, lower and retain the tire. During its manufacture, the lift plate may not have been sufficiently coated with anti-corrosion materials. If the plate is insufficiently coated and the vehicle is operated in cold climate regions where road salts are frequently used, road spray can reach the carrier assembly and corrode the lift plate.

Consequence: Corrosion of the plate could cause it to break, which could result in detachment of the spare tire from the vehicle. Detachment of the spare tire could result in a road hazard which may increase the risk of a vehicle crash.

Remedy Type: A remedy for this defect is currently being developed. Toyota will notify owners when a remedy plan has been finalized. The recall is expected to begin during December 2012. Owners may contact their Toyota dealer or the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-800-331-4331.

Notes: Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

MFR Knowl Dt:	Prod Change Dt:	Mfr Press Release Dt:	NHTSA Press Release Dt:
Stop Sales:	Regional: Y		
Supplier: Deuer Manufacturing	Mfr Toll Free Num:		

Products	Vehicle Usage	Beginning Mfg Date	Ending Mfg Date
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION Make :TOYOTA Model :TACOMA Model Year :2001 Type :TRUCK		28-AUG-2000	27-AUG-2004
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION Make :TOYOTA Model :TACOMA Model Year :2003 Type :TRUCK		28-AUG-2000	27-AUG-2004
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION Make :TOYOTA Model :TACOMA Model Year :2004 Type :TRUCK		28-AUG-2000	27-AUG-2004
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION Make :TOYOTA Model :TACOMA Model Year :2002 Type :TRUCK		28-AUG-2000	27-AUG-2004

Component Name
TIRES:TEMPORARY/EMERGENCY SPARE TIRE

Recall Detail

Influencing Investigation(s)

Investigation Num	Subject	Investigator	Relationship
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Related Recalls

Yr	Type	Major Sub	Relationship
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Recall Characteristics

Unique Recall	Unique Descr
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Regional recall

Recall Communications

Fax Ack:

Letter Ack: 26-NOV-2012

Draft 577 Received:

Draft 577 Approved:

Final 577 Received: 22-FEB-2013

Owner Notification:

Phased: N

577 End:

Renotification:

Envelope Approved:

Dealer Notification

Received: 12-FEB-2013

Dealer Notification: