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COVER PAGE

I just got off the phone with an NHTSA representative and after explaining what you are about to read it was suggested that I write it down and send it on to this office.

The case reference # is 677371

Internet Address

cel



AM  
02/17  
DW

August 26, 2014

Subject:

To Petition An Investigation To Toyota Regarding "PUSH START" Ignition System.

**This concern pertains to ANY car manufacturer that offers**

**"PUSH START" ignition without key being inserted**

Recap of event:

My parents recently purchased a 2014 Prius 2 w/keyless entry and "PUSH START" ignition system. While they are away I stop by when I can to pick up the mail and check the message machine. I had parked next to the Prius and as I was approaching my car to leave the Prius motor turned on by itself. I was able to open the door and noticed that the power button was lit which indicated that the engine system was active and on. The screen in the center console stated that no key detected. I pressed the power button to turn the engine off.

I did not have a key to the Prius on my person when this happened. I went back to the house and brought the key down. I pressed the power button to activate the ignition system and then I pressed it again to deactivate the system. I then exited the car and remotely locked the vehicle. – That was last night.

On my way home from work this morning I stopped by the Toyota Dealership and told them what had happened and I was told that if you walk away from the vehicle without turning off the ignition system the car remains on. The engine turned on because the Prius was in "battery mode" to replenish the battery power when the system detects the battery charge has dropped below a certain level. I suspect that this had been happening all day.

I went next to a Mini cooper dealership and asked if this would happen with their "PUSH START" ignition system and they said: "...in the mini models where the key only has to be in the vehicle and not plugged into the ignition slot, if a driver were to walk away from the vehicle with the key the engine would remain on until the power button was pushed to deactivate the system. He said that all vehicles with the "PUSH START" systems work like that, regardless of manufacturer." He jokingly told me that I could drive to Vegas and beyond (and indefinitely) as long as no one pushed the power button which would turn the ignition system off.

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Suggested solution:

This could be a benefit of owning a vehicle with a keyless "PUSH START" ignition system.

After not detecting the key for 10 minutes the vehicle automatically goes into governor mode which is activated once the car comes to a full stop. (This stop could be at a traffic light, in rush hour traffic, a parking space or for any reason) When the driver of the vehicle accelerates again the car is limited to a maximum speed of 25 MPH. – It is now in governor mode. This would be a rolling red flag for law enforcement and is preferable to complete deactivation because you would not want a car "stalled" in traffic in the middle of an intersection or on a busy freeway.

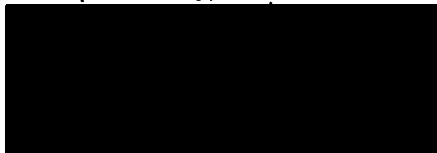
Most of these cars with "PUSH START" ignition technology have GPS. Law enforcement can work with the car manufacturer to locate the vehicle.

Once the vehicle is spotted by law enforcement then the car manufacturer can remotely program the "PUSH START" ignition system into shut off mode which activates once the vehicle comes to any full stop. Of course this would happen in co-ordination with the law enforcement team and the on-scene officer(s).

If this idea could be implemented it would discourage auto theft and car jacking of vehicles with the "PUSH START" technology. Which could be a big perk that might encourage people to purchase cars with this system.

I know it cannot be mandated, but if this seems like a good and workable idea, could the NHTSA suggest this to the Auto manufacturers.

Respectfully,



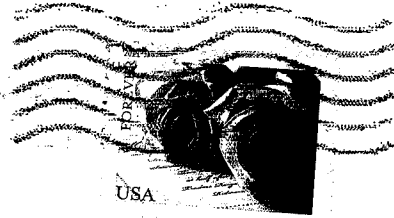


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