

**STATEMENT AND Q&A REGARDING  
2007 MODEL YEAR LEXUS ES 350  
ALL WEATHER FLOOR MAT ACCESSORY**

04/01/07 v7

**Statement:**

On March 29, 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") opened an investigation called a Preliminary Evaluation on certain 2007 model year Lexus ES 350 vehicles. NHTSA is concerned that if the Lexus All Weather Floor Mat is installed on top of the existing Lexus Carpeted Floor Mats, the All Weather Floor Mats would not be secured by the retaining hooks (clips) and may slip forward interfering with the accelerator pedal. NHTSA has received five consumer complaints where the All Weather Floor Mat may have interfered with the accelerator pedal operation.

A Preliminary Evaluation is an early-stage inquiry to determine if further analysis (an Engineering Analysis) is warranted; this is not a recall. Lexus is currently cooperating fully with the agency in its efforts to investigate the allegations.

**Q1: When did NHTSA begin its investigation of the reported cases?**

A1: NHTSA opened the Preliminary Evaluation on March 29, 2007. However, as of today, Lexus has not yet received the inquiry letter.

**Q2: What prompted NHTSA to investigate these issues?**

A2: NHTSA received five consumer where the All Weather Floor Mat may have interfered with the accelerator pedal operation. Based upon consumer interviews, the agency believes that the accessory Lexus All Weather Floor Mat, if not properly installed, may interfere with the accelerator pedal on certain 2007 model year Lexus ES 350 vehicles.

**Q3: What seems to be the source of the problem?**

A3: Lexus is in the midst of its own investigation. It is premature to comment on the cause until the investigation is completed.

**Q3a: NHTSA's Opening Resume indicates the caution statement on the Lexus All Weather Floor Mat may not be discernable to consumers. What is the Lexus All Weather Floor Mat and its relationship to this investigation?**

A3a: The 2007 model year ES 350 vehicle is equipped with the genuine Lexus Carpeted Floor Mats as a factory standard accessory. **As an option**, consumers may purchase the genuine Lexus All Weather Floor Mats (floor mats constructed from heavy duty rubber). Either the Lexus Carpeted Floor Mat or the All Weather Floor Mat for the driver's seating position must be secured to the vehicle by the retaining hooks which hold the mat in place through special grommet holes in the mat. In some cases, NHTSA found the All Weather Floor Mat installed on top of the existing Lexus Carpeted Floor Mat in the driver's seating position. In these cases, the retaining hooks on the floor would not be long enough to hold both the Lexus Carpeted and All Weather Floor Mats in place.

In terms of the relation to this Preliminary Evaluation, Lexus is in the midst of its own investigation. It is premature to comment further until the investigation is completed.