



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 06-014
 Prompted By: RQ06-005 (Andrea Noel)
 Date Opened: 08/02/2006 Date Closed: 02/28/2007
 Principal Investigator: Andrea Noel
 Subject: Lower ball joint failure

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor Corporation, Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
 Products: 2004-2005 Toyota Tundra and 2004-2007 Toyota Sequoia
 Population: 516,200

Problem description: The front suspension lower ball joint separates while driving resulting in a loss of vehicle control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	25	108	120
Crashes/Fires:	0	10	10
Injury Incidents:	0	3	3
# Injuries:	0	3	3
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	102	102

*Description of Other: Toyota warranty claims pertaining to lower ball joint separation.

Action: This Engineering Analysis has been closed. Recall 07V-013.

Engineer: Andrea Noel

Date: 02/28/2007

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 02/28/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/28/2007

Summary: In a letter dated January 18, 2007, Toyota notified NHTSA of a safety defect in model year (MY) 2004 through 2006 Toyota Tundra and MY 2004 through 2007 Toyota Sequoia vehicles produced between September 15, 2003 and November 17, 2006 (NHTSA recall no. 07V-013). According to Toyota, in the front suspension lower ball joint on the subject vehicles, due to possible improper finishing of the ball joint, such as the aspect of the ball stud surface, some ball joints may experience an incidental deterioration of the internal lubrication. This may cause the ball joint to wear and loosen prematurely, which could result in increased steering effort, reduced vehicle self-centering, and noise in the front suspension. In extreme cases, if the vehicle is continuously operated in this condition, the lower ball joint may separate from the knuckle and could cause loss of vehicle control. Toyota will instruct owners to return their vehicles to any Toyota dealer for replacement of the front suspension lower ball joints.

This Engineering Analysis has been closed, as Toyota is recalling the affected vehicles. ODI will monitor the effectiveness of the remedy and take further action if warranted.

A.N. 2/28/07