



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** Accessory all weather mat interferes  
with throttle operation Date: **MAY 16 2007**

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation Reply to  
Attn. of: **NVS-213  
PE07-016**

To: Michael Monk, Director  
Vehicle Research and Test Center

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct testing as described below.

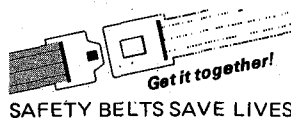
**BACKGROUND:** The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is currently investigating (under PE07-016) certain model year 2007 Lexus ES350 models equipped with Lexus accessory all weather mats. Complainants allege that the engine produces power when the throttle is not depressed and that they have difficulty or are unable to control the vehicle. The all weather mat can trap the gas pedal at or near WOT when it is improperly installed and or retained.

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the testing is to assess the conditions which may result in the accelerator pedal becoming trapped by the all weather floor mat, the factors contributing to such a condition (e.g., vehicle and/or mat design, owner/dealer instructions, etc.), and the frequency and safety consequences associated with mat-pedal interference in 2007 Lexus ES350 vehicles.

**TEST EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE:** The testing will include a survey of subject vehicle owners, analysis of survey results, interviews of survey respondents, and field site inspections of incident scenes and vehicles as required. Additional test requirements will be determined after further discussion between ODI and VRTC.

**TEST VEHICLE(S):** VRTC will need to obtain all weather mats and may need to obtain appropriate vehicles to conduct testing.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The investigator is Scott Yon (Phone: 202/366-6761) who is available to discuss the details of the testing with your engineer.



**FINAL REPORT:** It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in discussion with ODI.

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