



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-072
Date Opened: 12/16/2008 Date Closed: 04/15/09
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Electronic Stability Control Malfunction

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor of North America, Inc., Toyota Motor Corporation
Products: MY 2003 Toyota Sequoia
Population: 68,000

Problem Description: Inappropriate brake application of one or more wheels and/or loss of throttle control may occur suddenly and unexpectedly due to an electronic stability control and/or a traction control system malfunction.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	64	96	153
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	23,357	23,357

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for replacement of skid control computer or translate logic computer.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA09-006).

Engineer: Stephen McHenry

Date: 04/15/2009

Div. Chief: Jeffrey Quandt

Date: 04/15/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/15/2009

Summary: ODI has received 64 consumer reports and Toyota has received 96 reports that allege incidents of inappropriate activation of either the Electronic Stability Control System [Toyota nomenclature: Vehicle Stability Control (VSC)] and/or the traction control system in model year (MY) 2003 Toyota Sequoia vehicles. During the activation of either system the driver loses throttle control and one or more brakes may apply causing the vehicle to slow suddenly. During these activation events the brake lights are not illuminated to signal to following traffic that the vehicle is slowing. Some of the complainants allege almost being struck by following or crossing traffic because of the unexpected deceleration.

In response to ODI's Information Request letter for PE08-072, Toyota indicated that it has reviewed the reports submitted to ODI and to Toyota and that it believes that there are several issues responsible for the reported incidents. It is Toyota's opinion that the VSC system was operating as designed and that the reports are most likely related to the application of the Traction Control System rather than the VSC system. At this time Toyota has not determined that a safety-related defect exists in the MY 2003 Sequoia vehicles.

This Preliminary investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA09-006) to continue to investigate the scope, frequency, and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.