



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

ODI RESUME

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

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

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 system malfunction.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	50		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Stephen McHenry SMH
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI has received 50 consumer complaints alleging incidents of inappropriate activation of the Electronic Stability Control System [Toyota nomenclature: Vehicle Stability Control (VSC)] in model year (MY) 2003 Toyota Sequoia vehicles. During VSC activation the driver loses throttle control (VSC activation reduces engine power) and one or more brakes may apply causing the vehicle to slow suddenly. During the VSC activation event the brake lights are not illuminated to signal to following traffic that the vehicle is slowing. Thirteen of the complainants allege almost being in a crash created by a malfunctioning VSC event.

Toyota has issued several Technical Service Bulletins to correct conditions that may result in VSC telltale lamp illumination: in September 2003, TSB BR002-03 instructed technicians to replace the translate computer assembly for diagnostic trouble code (DTC) C1203; in November 2003, TSB BR003-03 indicated that the skid control computer assembly should be replaced for DTC C1231; and in March 2006, TSB BR006-06 indicated that the skid control computer should be replaced for DTCS C1247 or C1310. The repairs in all three bulletins involve installing computers with revised control logic/algorithms. ODI's preliminary analysis of complaints alleging incidents of inappropriate VSC activation found 11 indicating that one of the subject TSB repairs were performed and 20 others where a TSB condition was diagnosed but repairs had not been completed (some owners are apparently declining repairs due to cost, as repair estimates of \$1,500 have been reported).

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A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the scope, frequency, and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.

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