



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** Unwanted acceleration due to trim panel,  
MY 2004 Toyota Sienna

Date: APR 21 2008

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation

Reply to  
Attn. of: NVS-213dsy  
PE08-025

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 PE08-025) certain model year 2004 Toyota Sienna vans for a condition that can cause the engine to produce power when the accelerator is not depressed. The driver's side trim panel, which is secured by a trim clip to the center console, can become detached and prevent the pedal from returning to the fully closed position. See the attached confidential EWR Field Report for further information. A single VOQ report that may be related has also been received and is also attached for your review.

**OBJECTIVE:** The objectives of the testing are: 1) to assess how difficult it is for a detached trim panel to obscure the accelerator pedal; 2) to assess the operation of the vehicle should the accelerator pedal become entrapped by the trim panel; and 3) to determine the likelihood that the trim panel is (or will become) detached in service.

**TEST EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE:** The test equipment and the procedure can be determined after further discussion between ODI and VRTC. A subject vehicle owner survey for Ohio registrants will probably be required.

**TEST VEHICLE(S):** VRTC may need to obtain appropriate vehicles to conduct testing.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Investigator is Scott Yon (Phone: 202/366-0139) 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.

cc:

Mr. Jeffrey Quandt, NVS-213

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