



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 18-002
Prompted by: Consumer Defect Petition
Date Opened: 08/17/2018
Investigator: Frederick Lamance **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Frame Corrosion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor Corporation
Products: 2002-2006 Toyota 4Runner
Population: 520,059 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The petition alleges that premature and excessive frame corrosion may result in loss of control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Defect Petition has been opened.

Summary:

On August 13, 2018, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) received a letter dated August 7, 2018, petitioning the Agency to investigate frame corrosion in model year (MY) 2002 through 2006 Toyota 4Runner vehicles. The Petitioner alleges that while he was traveling on a two-lane highway in his 2005 4Runner "without warning, the steering/suspension system separated from the frame due to excessive frame corrosion," resulting in difficulty controlling the vehicle. The Petitioner initially reported the failure to NHTSA in a May 26, 2018 complaint (VOQ 11098055).

The petition alleges that the incident he experienced resulted from excessive and premature corrosion and cites as evidence: 1) other complaints of "premature and excessive frame corrosion" in 2002 through 2006 4Runner vehicles that he identified in NHTSA's on-line complaint database; and 2) a recent class-action settlement involving "1.5 million Tacoma, Tundra and Sequoia trucks also built on a frame," which he alleges did not include the 4Runner vehicles "simply because there were insufficient complaints known to the counsel representing the class at the time it was formed."

The petition scope includes third (MY 1996-2002) and fourth (MY 2003-2009) generation Toyota 4Runner vehicles. A preliminary analysis of available complaints and field reports by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has identified no crashes or injuries related to corroded frame or suspension components in these vehicles. ODI will evaluate the petition for a grant or deny decision.