

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT INFORMATION
REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. **01V-186** by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: **May 31, 2001** (Received June 5, 2001)

MANUFACTURER: **Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC (STD)**

JUN - 7 2001

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: **Roger Blandford, Manager, Technical Services**

FAX: **(954) 429-2195**

SUBJECT: 43 model year 2001 Toyota Tacoma 4x2 trucks equipped with TU4 white letter tire upgrade option and distributed by Southeast Toyota Distributors, Inc. in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina. Tire damage may have occurred due to improper installation, which could cause the tire to deflate or a bulge appearing in the sidewall of the tire.

This is an **initial** acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.


We have reviewed your draft owner notification letter and it does not meet all the requirements of Part 577. The draft notification letter provided by STD states that a "...**possible** defect which relates to motor vehicle...". Part 577.5(c) requires that the manufacturer who has determined a **safety defect/noncompliance exists** in its motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment must state that the defect or noncompliance does exist in its motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment specifically using one of the two sentences provided in Part 577.5(c) as appropriate. You **cannot state that the defect or noncompliance is "possible"** (or use any other similar word such as could, might, can, etc.). The word "possible" implies that the defect **may not exist** on any of the vehicles and is considered to be a disclaimer specifically prohibited by Part 577.8(a).

Please change this sentence to read "*Southeast Toyota ... has determined that a defect which related to motor vehicle safety exists on certain 2001 model year Tacoma*"

The Auto Safety Hotline toll-free number has changed. The new number is 1-888-327-4236. Also, leave out the reference to the Washington, DC telephone number. That number is no longer in service.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter **in which notification to purchasers occurs**. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin by the end of June 2001. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due October 30, 2001.

If you have any questions, please call:

 Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232
or Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5226
or by FAX (202) 366-7882
Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division