

**TOYOTA**  
**TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1850 M STREET, NW, SUITE 900, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

TEL: (202) 775-1707  
FAX: (202) 463-8513

RECEIVED  
June 18, 2004  
2004 JUN 25 A 9 04  
COMPLAINTS  
SECTION

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance – NSA-01  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

04V-295  
(3 pages)

Re: Lexus LS430 Fuel Pump Problem  
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, on behalf of Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"], we hereby submit the attached Defect Information Report concerning a safety recall of certain 2004 model year Lexus LS430 vehicles to address a fuel pump problem.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Sid Yokoi or Mr. Chris Santucci at (202) 463-6856.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

  
Chris Tinto  
Director

CT:ty  
Attachment

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"]  
1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-city,  
Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. ["TMS"]  
19001 South Western Avenue  
Torrance, CA 90509

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on production records, we have determined the affected vehicle population as set forth in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Lexus LS430	2004	TMC	BN36F	40123773 - 40149014	July 29, 2003 through January 23, 2004

Note : Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

14,259

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

In the subject vehicles, there is an impeller installed in the fuel pump in the fuel tank to send fuel out of the tank. Due to improper molding of the impeller, it may become deformed by alcohol included in fuel, causing the impeller to contact the fuel pump body. This condition could increase the rotation resistance of the impeller and, in the worst case, may result in failure of the fuel pump.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January – February 2004

TMC received a field report that indicated a fuel pump malfunction on a 2004 MY Lexus LS430 vehicle, and requested that TMS recover the fuel pump in question. After receiving it, TMC immediately began an investigation into the cause of the malfunction. As a result of this investigation, it was discovered that the impeller installed in the fuel pump contacted the fuel pump body. Tentatively, to avoid contact between the impeller and the fuel pump body, the clearance between the impeller and the fuel pump body increased in late January 2004.

We also checked the manufacturing process of the fuel pump and found that the fuel pumps manufactured at the time had no abnormality.

We continued our investigation into the cause of the contact between the impeller and the fuel pump body. As a result of this further investigation, it was found that the impeller was deformed by the penetration of alcohol included in fuel.

March – Mid June 2004

TMC investigated the relationship between the penetration of alcohol included in fuel and the material of the impeller. As a result of this investigation, we found that if air bubbles remain in the impeller during the molding process, alcohol may accumulate in the bubbles and could increase the amount of the impeller deformation.

Based on the above investigation, it was concluded that due to improper molding, the impeller may become deformed by alcohol included in fuel. This could cause the impeller to contact the fuel pump body, which may result in failure of the fuel pump. As a result, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles in the affected range.

This safety campaign will also be conducted in Canada.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Lexus dealer to replace the fuel pump.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were built between July 2003 and January 2004. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Lexus New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under the Lexus's Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence late July and be completed before late August.

Copies of the owner notification and dealer instructions will be submitted as soon as they are available.