

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

WASHINGTON OFFICE
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July 8, 2004

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-346
(4 pages)
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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Re: Toyota Camry Curtain Shield Airbag Issue
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 voluntary safety recall of certain 2002 - 2004 model year Toyota Camry vehicles to address an issue with the curtain shield airbag assembly.

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.



For Chris Tinto
Director

CT:cs
Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc. ["TMMK"]
1001 Cherry Blossom Way
Georgetown, KY 40324

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	
Toyota Camry	2002 - 2004	TMMK	BA30K	4U001027 - 4U503127	October 22, 2001 through February 10, 2004
			BE30K	2U016708 - 2U641096	
				3U101472 - 3U788111 4U232485 - 4U866734	
			BF30K	2U010508 - 2U542026 3U032729 - 3U567398 4U062091 - 4U579393	

Note: (1) Only vehicles with the curtain shield airbag system are affected.

(2) Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.

Component containing defect: Curtain Shield Airbag

Manufacturer Name: Autoliv North America
Address: 3350 Airport Rd, Ogden, UT 84405 USA
Telephone: (801)629-9800

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

128,316

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

For those vehicles which are equipped with a curtain shield airbag system, there is the possibility that some airbag assemblies may contain the curtain bag twisted near the inflator due to improper assembly of the curtain shield airbag. In this condition, the gas supplied by the inflator may be inadequate for proper inflation of the bag, causing incomplete inflation of the curtain in the event of the collision.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

Mid February – May 2004

Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"] received information from Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. ["TMMNA"] that the supplier discovered a twist in the airbag of the curtain shield airbag assembly for Toyota Camry vehicles during inspection, and immediately began an investigation. As a result, it was found that there is the possibility that the curtain airbag may have been twisted during the manufacturing process of the curtain shield airbag assembly. The inspection process was changed immediately to identify twisted curtain airbags, and the manufacturing process was changed to avoid twisting the curtain airbag.

After TMC received the curtain shield airbag assembly in question, TMC conducted the deployment test and confirmed that the curtain airbag was fully inflated, but the motion of the inflation was not stable. In addition, TMC continued its further investigation on the direction and the degree of the twist in the curtain bag.

June – Early July 2004

TMC conducted further deployment tests using the curtain shield airbags with twisted curtain airbags and found that, in certain conditions, the gas generated by the inflator may not be adequately supplied to the bag, causing the bag to be inflated improperly.

As a result of the investigation above, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles equipped with the curtain shield airbag system in the affected range.

This safety campaign will also be conducted in Canada and Mexico.

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 Toyota dealer for inspection of the curtain shield airbag and replace the airbag assembly if necessary.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were built between October 2001 and February 2004. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Toyota New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under the Toyota's Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence early August and be completed before early September.

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