

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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December 13, 2004

04V-595
(3 pages)

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator, Enforcement – NVS-200
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Toyota Camry/Lexus ES330 Seatbelt Buckle Status Switch Service Campaign

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

As per the discussion at our June 24, 2004, meeting with the agency, this letter is to inform you that Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"] has decided to conduct a service campaign to replace the front passenger seatbelt buckle status switch on certain 2004 and 2005 Model Year Toyota Camry and Lexus ES330 vehicles. Those affected, 150,061 vehicles, are only those equipped with a front passenger power seat. A listing of the range of vehicle identification numbers (VIN) for the affected vehicles is attached to this letter.

When installing certain rear-facing infant child seat bases onto the front passenger seat with an excessively high seatbelt tension, it was determined that it may be possible to unseat a component called the buckle status switch ("switch") from the seat belt buckle. While the vehicles comply with all applicable motor vehicle safety standards, if the switch becomes unseated, the front passenger occupant classification system may mistake the rear-facing child restraint for an unbelted adult occupant, and may not suppress the deployment of the front passenger airbag. Toyota has decided to conduct a special service campaign to eliminate the possibility of this occurring in the field.

It is important to note that if this condition were to occur when using a rear-facing child restraint in the front passenger seat, customers would be alerted by both the flashing red seat belt warning lamp, and the yellow passenger "Airbag ON" lamp on the vehicle dashboard. In addition, Toyota recommends that customers never install a rear-facing child restraint in the front passenger seat, even if the passenger "Airbag OFF" lamp is illuminated.

Affected Vehicle VIN Range

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Lexus ES330	2004 -2005	TMC	BA30G	40001015-50024154	July 23, 2003 through September 2, 2004
				45000006-55067460	
Toyota Camry	2004 -2005	TMC	BE30K	40244954-50313153	July 23, 2003 through September 8, 2004
			BE32K	40245057-50310833	
			BF30K	40151821-50159271	
			BF32K	40151989-50159261	
		TMMK	BE30K	4U208121-5U969400	May 7, 2003 through September 1, 2004
			BE32K	4U259104-5U969271	
			BF30K	4U062091-5U594662	
			BF32K	4U051662-5U594664	

- Note : (1) Only vehicles with the front passenger power seat are affected.
 (2) Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S.

Associate Administrator, Enforcement

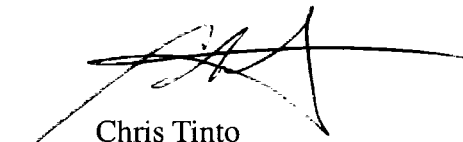
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All known owners of the affected vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Lexus dealer or a Toyota dealer to replace the front passenger seatbelt buckle status switch. Mailing of the owner notifications will commence on December 20, 2004 and be completed before the end of January 2005. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. Sid Yokoi or Mr. Chris Santucci at (202) 463-6856.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.



Chris Tinto
Director

CT:cs
Attachment