



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAY 18 2005

CHRIS TINTO
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.
DIRECTOR 1850 M STREET, NW, SUITE 600
WASHINGTON DC 20036

NVS-215
05V-225

Subject: BALL JOINT FAILURE

Dear MR. TINTO:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

TOYOTA/4 RUNNER/2001-2002
TOYOTA/SEQUOIA/2002-2004
TOYOTA/TACOMA/2001-2004
TOYOTA/TUNDRA/2002-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-225

Recall Date: May 06, 2005

Components:

SUSPENSION:FRONT:CONTROL ARM:LOWER BALL JOINT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 774,856

Summary:

ON CERTAIN SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES, THE FRONT SUSPENSION LOWER BALL JOINT WHICH CONNECTS THE LOWER CONTROL ARM TO THE KNUCKLE OF THE FRONT SUSPENSION, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE SURFACE OF THE BALL OF THE JOINT MAY HAVE BEEN SCRATCHED. THE BALL JOINT MAY EVENTUALLY EXPERIENCE EXCESSIVE WEAR AND LOOSENESS, RESULTING IN INCREASED STEERING EFFORT.

Consequence:

THE LOWER BALL JOINT MAY SEPARATE FROM THE KNUCKLE CAUSING LOSS OF STEERING CONTROL AND A CRASH COULD OCCUR WITH PRIOR WARNING.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE FRONT SUSPENSION LOWER BALL JOINTS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JULY 15, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT TOYOTA AT 1-800-331-4331.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

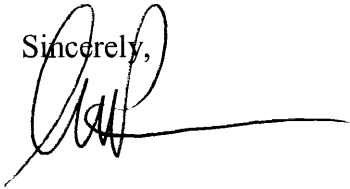
This recall was the subject of an Engineering Analysis, EA04-024, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, 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, the recall is expected to begin on July 15, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by October 30, 2005.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division