



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

MAY 19 2005

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

NVS-215  
05V-227

Subject: STEERING COLUMN ASSEMBLY

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/AVALON/2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-227

**Recall Date:** May 13, 2005

**Components:**  
STEERING:COLUMN

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 4,855

**Summary:**  
ON CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES, THE STEERING YOKE WAS NOT WELDED TO THE STEERING SHAFT. IF THE VEHICLE IS OPERATED IN THIS CONDITION, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE YOKE MAY COME OFF FROM THE SHAFT, AND COULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF VEHICLE STEERING CONTROL.

**Consequence:**  
LOSS OF CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**  
DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE STEERING YOKE AND SHAFT WELD CONDITION, AND REPLACE THE STEERING COLUMN ASSEMBLY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JUNE 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT TOYOTA AT 1-800-331-4331.

**Notes:**

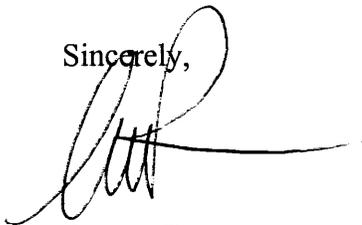
CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

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 during June 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 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](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division