

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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March 28, 2005

Mr. Ronald Medford
Senior Associate Administrator, Vehicle Safety – NVS-010
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RECEIVED
4-19-216
2005 MAR 30 A 9:48
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Re: 2004-2005 Toyota Tundra Accessory Dual Exhaust
Part 573, Defect Information Report

05V-12³
(4 pages)

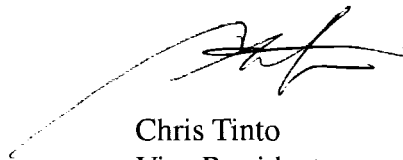
Dear Mr. Medford:

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 2004 and 2005 model year Toyota Tundra vehicles to address an issue with an accessory dual exhaust system.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Sid Yokoi or Mr. Chris Santucci at (202) 775-1707.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.



Chris Tinto
Vice President

CT:cs
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 upon a technical investigation, we have determined the affected vehicles as follows:

2004-2005 MY Toyota Tundra models equipped with the Vehicle Skid Control (VSC) option package and also equipped with the Toyota Accessory Dual Exhaust..

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufacturer	VIN			Production Period
			WMI	VDS	VIS	
Toyota/ Tundra	2004 -2005	Toyota	5TB	RT3***	*S450422 – *S462018	August 1, 2003 through December 22, 2004
				ET3***	*S438474 – *S474294	
				BT4***	*S447181 – *S463470	
				DT4***	*S003283 – *S479776	
				KT4217	5S456152 – 5S456152	

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

Function: The Accessory Dual Exhaust replaces the stock muffler with a muffler that has a more aggressive sound. It also adds an additional tail pipe on the driver side of the vehicle.

The Accessory Dual Exhaust is an optional component which is installed as an accessory by Toyota dealers and port facilities. The dual exhaust system began production in January 2000.

Component containing defect: Toyota Accessory Dual Exhaust System
Manufacturer Name: Tube Solutions
Address: 3140 Pullman Ave Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Telephone: 1-714-850-1285

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

5,726

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

2.5% (145 units)

5. Description of Problem:

The Accessory Dual Exhaust was added as an available option for all model Toyota Tundra vehicles. The Dual Exhaust met all clearance specifications on models with the standard equipment package. The 2004-2005 models offered VSC as an available factory option. When the Dual Exhaust was added to vehicles with the VSC option, the driver's side exhaust pipe no longer met the clearance specifications. The VSC option utilizes an additional brake line that is not present in vehicles without VSC. On the driver side, the additional exhaust pipe, in rare cases, could contact the brake line.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

December 2004:

TMS was notified of a possible exhaust flange interference with the additional brake line on Tundra's equipped with the VSC option. The Accessory Exhaust fitment option was eliminated for all Tundra's equipped with VSC to prevent additional parts from being installed.

January 2005:

TMS began an investigation into the Accessory Dual Exhaust. Throughout the month, various Tundra models were inspected to confirm that the conditions did not exist on all models, only those equipped with VSC. Information regarding the specifications for the exhaust and brake line systems was gathered to help assess the scope of the problem. A vehicle was provided to the exhaust manufacturer to confirm that the product was made to specifications. Warranty data was studied and no customer feedback or warranty claims were reported due to this issue.

February 2005:

Instrumented testing was scheduled in Japan to determine the temperature exposure of the brake line. However, due to cold weather in Japan, TMS was also requested to begin testing as soon as possible. The preliminary findings were sent to TMC for discussion. The initial TMS assessment of the situation indicated that proximity of the brake hose to the exhaust system was outside of the design specification, but that brake line temperature itself was within specification and not a major concern.

March 2005:

TMC conducted additional testing of the exhaust to confirm the TMS assessment. TMC issued their report with the conclusion that proximity to the brake line was the key concern and temperature was only a secondary factor. Additional testing of the exhaust was conducted to determine if the proximity issue could be effectively addressed by modification of the exhaust system.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the subject vehicles fitted at the assembly plant with the VSC option will be notified by first class mail to inspect their vehicles or return their vehicles to a Toyota dealer for inspection; the owner or dealer will confirm the presence of the Accessory Exhaust. Once the dealer has confirmed that the vehicle meets both conditions a new "Accessory Exhaust" system will be installed and the old unit returned to TMS. The new Accessory Exhaust system will be listed under a new part number and contain new installation instructions with updated specifications. The dealer will complete the repair and submit the necessary documentation to TMS. If the vehicle does not have the Accessory Exhaust installed, either the owner or the dealer may return the notification that the vehicle does not require repair.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies:

The vehicles involved were built between August, 2003 and December, 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 Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Dealer notification will occur in late April, 2005.

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence in late April, 2005 and be completed before mid- May, 2005.

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