

**TOYOTA**  
**TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

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May 13, 2005

25V-227  
(3 pages)

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  
MAY 16 2005  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
P 4:44

Re: 2005 Toyota Avalon Steering Column Assembly  
Part 573, Defect Information Report

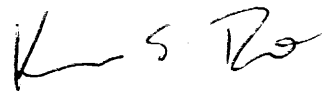
Dear Mr. Medford:

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 2005 model year Toyota Avalon vehicles to address an issue with the steering column assembly.

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 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 that the affected vehicle population as in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufacturer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota Avalon	2005	TMMK	BK36B#	5U001099 –5U006875	December 16, 2004 through February 22, 2005

Note: 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: Steering Column Assembly

Manufacturer Name: Delphi Steering  
Address: 3900 Holland Road 3350, Saginaw, Michigan 48601, USA  
Telephone: (989)757-5000

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

4,855

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

For the subject vehicles, there is a possibility that the steering yoke, which is press fit onto the steering shaft, 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.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

Late March – Early May 2005

Toyota was notified by Toyota Motor Sales (TMS) that the steering system of a TMS-owned Avalon had become inoperative. Toyota immediately began an investigation into the cause of the problem. As a result, it was found that the press fit steering yoke had not been welded to the steering shaft. It was found from the production records that the steering yoke and shaft may have skipped the welding process, and not passed through the regular assembly process. The particular steering yoke and shaft was produced during the assembly trial.

As a result of further analysis of the production history, it was found that there was no welding confirmation in the steering yoke and shaft production process; there was only steering free play inspection until January 7, 2005.

Because Toyota cannot guarantee the steering yoke and shaft weld quality prior to the January 7, 2005 produced components, Toyota has decided to conduct a recall on the affected vehicles to remedy the condition. Toyota confirmed that the affected steering column assemblies may be installed in Toyota Avalon vehicles produced until February 22, 2005. This safety campaign will also be conducted in Canada, Puerto Rico and certain Middle East countries.

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 any Toyota dealer for an inspection of the steering yoke and shaft weld condition, and to replace the steering column assembly, if necessary.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were produced until February 22, 2005. 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 in early June, 2005 and be completed by early July, 2005. Copies of the owner notification and dealer instructions will be submitted as soon as they are available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

Notifications to distributors/dealers will be sent in mid-May, 2005.