

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1850 M STREET, NW, SUITE 600, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

TEL: (202) 775-1700
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July 19, 2005

*05V-327
(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

Re: 2004 - 2005 MY Toyota Sienna Seatbelt Bezel (EA05-010)
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 2004 - 2005 model year Toyota Sienna vehicles to address an issue with the second row passenger seatbelt bezel. Please note that the vehicles included in this report are the subject of your agency's investigation, EA05-010.

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 Indiana, Inc. ["TMMI"]
 4000 Tulip Tree Drive,
 Princeton, IN 47670-4000 U. S. A.

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 the affected vehicle population as in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufacturer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota Sienna	2004 through 2005	TMMI	BA22C#	S000023 – S047632	January 10, 2003 through May 18, 2005
			BA23C#	S000020 – S047631	
			ZA22C#	S000020 – S338112	
			ZA23C#	S000038 – S338115	

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: Bezel, Rear Seat Cover, No.1 and Bezel Rear Seat Back Lock, Upper (Seatbelt Bezel and Bezel Clip)

Manufacturer Name: Total Interior System-America, LLC
 Address: RR1, Box 101, CR100, Princeton, IN 47670, U.S.A.
 Telephone: (812)253-7125

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

345,443

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

In the middle row seating position in certain 2004 and 2005 model year Sienna vehicles, there is a possibility that the shoulder portion of the seatbelt may bind in the bezel trim piece (seatbelt bezel). The affected seatbelt bezel is located on the shoulder portion of the seat in the right side seat of the seven passenger models and the center seating position in the eight passenger models. In the worst case, if the seatbelt binds in the bezel, there is a possibility that extra webbing may exist in the seatbelt which could result in an improperly fitted seatbelt on a passenger.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

Early February – Late April 2005

NHTSA opened a Preliminary Investigation (PE05-008) on the Model Year 2004 Sienna middle-row (captain chair) for an issue with the middle row seatbelt. Toyota studied the condition of the problem, and believed that if the seatbelt became stuck in the seatbelt bezel, passengers can easily see and fix the problem. Therefore, in our response to the PE inquiry, we concluded that this condition does not constitute an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety.

Early May – Middle July

Although Toyota concluded that this condition does not constitute an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety, Toyota modified the seatbelt bezel and clip in new production vehicles (May 18, 2005) to prevent customer inconvenience, and began to consider an appropriate field action.

During this time, NHTSA upgraded the Preliminary Evaluation to an Engineering Analysis (EA05-010). To alleviate the concerns of NHTSA and customers about safety, and to prevent the possibility of an improperly fitted seatbelt, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall to remedy all of the affected vehicles.

This safety recall will also be conducted in Canada and Mexico.

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 seatbelt bezel, and to replace the bezel and clip, if necessary.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were produced until May 18, 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 around the middle of August 2005 and will be completed around late September 2005.

Notifications to dealers will be sent in late July 2005. Copies of the owner notification and dealer instructions will be submitted as soon as they are available.

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July 22, 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

Re: 2004 - 2005 MY Toyota Sienna Seatbelt Bezel (EA05-010)
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Medford:

This letter is being sent to amend the recent Defect Information Report (DIR) we filed regarding the 2004 - 2005 MY Toyota Sienna Seatbelt Bezel (EA05-010). The previous DIR contained an incorrect description of the corrective action. The correct DIR is attached to this letter.

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

Sincerely,

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Chris Tinto
Vice President

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This safety recall will also be conducted in Canada and Mexico.

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 to replace the seatbelt bezel and clip.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were produced until May 18, 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.

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