

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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January 25, 2006

06 V-023
(4 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 MY Lexus RX330 Rear Seat Belt Anchorage (FMVSS 210)
Part 573, Noncompliance Information Report

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 27 10 40 AM '06


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 Noncompliance Information Report concerning certain 2004 model year Lexus RX330 vehicles manufactured with a rear seat belt anchorage that does not comply with FMVSS 210.

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

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.



Chris Tinto
Vice President

CT:cs
Attachment

NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. ["TMMC"]
1055 Fountain Street North, Cambridge,
Ontario, Canada N3H 5K2, CANADA

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 set forth in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufa- cturer	VIN			Production Period
			WMI	VDS	VIS	
Lexus/ RX330	2004	TMMC	2T2	GA31U, HA31U	4C001001 through 4C003719	September 19, 2003 through October 31, 2003

Note: Although all of the involved vehicles are within the above VIN range, not all of the vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

3,851

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Noncompliance:

Unknown

5. Description of Noncompliance:

Due to improper assembly instructions for installation, the subject vehicles' anchor bolt for the left side rear passenger seatbelt buckle may not withstand the required force when it is tested in accordance with the applicable test procedure. This condition does not meet the requirement outlined in S4.2.2 of FMVSS210.

6. Test results and other information

After receiving a field report on a Canadian vehicle, Toyota began an internal investigation into FMVSS 210 compliance. S4.2.2 requires that "... the anchorages, attachment hardware, and attachment bolts for any of the following seat belt assemblies shall withstand a 3,000 pound force applied to the lap belt portion of the seat belt assembly simultaneously with a 3,000 pound force applied to the shoulder belt portion of the seat belt assembly, when tested in accordance with S5.2 of this standard ...". From this investigation, it was determined that during the production period specified above, some metal rework of the anchor panel and nut had been done to make anchor bolt insertion easier. This rework, which included tapping, could cause the thread of the nut to become damaged. If a damaged nut is combined with a bolt which has a short thread, the subject vehicles' anchor bolt may not withstand the required 3,000 pound force when the vehicle is tested in accordance with S5.2 of FMVSS210. The test result is provided as Attachment 1.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the affected vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Lexus dealer to replace the anchor bolt for the left side rear passenger seatbelt buckle assembly.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies:

The vehicles involved were built between September 2003 and October 2003. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Lexus New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all affected vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under the Lexus Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence in early February, 2006 and will be completed in late February, 2006.

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 late January, 2006.

Test date: December 22, 2005

Test vehicle: RX330 (Rear seat)

Test specimen condition:

Anchor nut: Worst damage by tapping work

Anchor bolt: For RX330 made in Canada which has shorter thread length

Seat weight: Left 22.1 kg, Right 38.8 kg

