

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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February 27, 2006

06 V-061
(4 Pages)

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: 2006 MY Toyota Tacoma/Firestone 97S Destination LE P215/70R15 tires
Part 573, Defect Information Report

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2006
NHTSA
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Dear Mr. Smith:

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 2006 MY Toyota Tacoma vehicles to address an issue with the Firestone 97S Destination LE P215/70R15 tires.

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing California, Inc. ["TMMCA"]
45500 Fremont Boulevard
Fremont, CA, 94538

Fabricating Manufacturer

New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. ["NUMMI"]
45500 Fremont Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94538-6368, USA

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	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota Tacoma	2006	TMMCA	NX22N	6Z145177 – 6Z196989	August 23, 2005 through December 13 2005
			TX22N	6Z145349 – 6Z197097	

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

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

12,020

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

In certain tires (Firestone 97S Destination LE P215/70R15) installed on the subject vehicles, the bead of the tire may be damaged due to improper assembly of the tires onto the wheels. If the vehicle is operated in this condition, there is a possibility that a bulge may be formed on the sidewall and/or air may leak from the area of the damaged bead.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

End of November 2005 – Mid February 2006

NUMMI discovered tires with a bulge on the sidewall area installed on some Tacoma vehicles and immediately began an investigation. As a result, it was found that the tires with the bulge had received damage on the bead area of the tire. This damage was only seen on the Firestone 15” tires installed on the Tacoma 4X2 model vehicles. During an inspection of the wheel/tire assembly process at the contracted tire mounter, it was discovered that the damage could be caused during the automated tire to wheel mounting process, if the tire was mounted to the wheel with the bead placed directly on the installed Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) sensor. (TPMS was adopted on 2006 model year Tacoma vehicles.)

NUMMI continued its investigation and confirmed that if the bead area of the tire is damaged, a bulge may develop on the sidewall of the tire and/or air may leak from the area of the damaged bead.

Late February 2006

As a result of the investigation above, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles equipped with the Firestone 15” tires in the affected range.

This safety campaign will also be conducted in Canada.

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 tires and replacement of the tire(s) if necessary.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners that have had their tire(s) replaced for a similar condition prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement by mailing a copy of their repair order, proof-of-payment, and proof-of-ownership for reimbursement consideration.

- (i) The beginning date of the Toyota reimbursement plan will be:
The reimbursement plan will cover repairs made no earlier than August 23, 2005, when the first vehicles were manufactured.
- (ii) The ending date of Toyota reimbursement plan will be:
The ending date shall be at least 10 calendar days after the date on which the last owner notification was mailed, however Toyota will further review requests for reimbursement from involved vehicle owners on a case-by-case basis.
- (iii) Toyota may exclude reimbursement, if:
 - a. the pre-notification repair was not of the same type (repair, replacement, or refund of purchase price) as the recall remedy;
 - b. the pre-notification repair was not reasonably necessary to correct the defect or noncompliance that led to the recall or a manifestation of the defect or noncompliance;

- c. the pre-notification remedy was not reasonably necessary to correct the defect or noncompliance; or;
 - d. the repair was conducted as a result of vehicle accident, debris or another reason not specifically related to the defect or noncompliance.
- (iv) Toyota will reimburse eligible customers for at least the cost of the tire(s) and the replacement labor. Other costs may be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis.
 - (v) Owners requesting reimbursement must submit the appropriate documentation: repair order, reason for replacement, proof-of-payment, and proof-of-ownership to Toyota for reimbursement consideration.

8. Recall Schedule:

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence in mid-March 2006, and will be completed in early May 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 early March 2006.