

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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April 12, 2006

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: Lexus GS and IS Seat Belt Retractor Issue
Part 573, Defect Information Report

06V-121
(4 pages)

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



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 Lexus GS and IS vehicles to address an issue with the seat belt retractor.

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
Technical & Regulatory Affairs

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 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 | |
| Lexus/ IS | 2006 | TMC | BK262 | 62000010 – 62006901 65000018 – 65009068 | August 23, 2005 though December 23 2005 |
| | | | CK262 | 62000003 – 62001923 65000013 – 65003465 | |
| | | | BE262 | 62000000 – 62002347 65000018 – 65004449 | |
| Lexus/ GS | 2006 | TMC | BH96S | 65018433 – 65030998 | July 27, 2005 though January 17 2006 |
| | | | CH96S | 60010196 – 60015891 | |
| | | | BN96S | 65007515 – 65012657 | |

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: Front Seat Belt Assembly

Manufacturer Name: TOKAI RIKO CO., LTD.

Address: 3-260 Toyota, Oguchi-cho, Niwa-gun, Aichi, 480-0195 Japan

Telephone: +81(587)95-5211

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

28,947

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

Some front seat belt retractors in the subject vehicles may have been produced with an inappropriately sized part for the emergency locking system. This can prevent the locking system from releasing when it is activated. If the seat belt is locked in this condition, the occupant may not fasten the seat belt, increasing the risk of injury.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

October 2005 – December 2005

Toyota received some field information from the Japan market which indicated that a driver side seat belt could not be pulled out of the retractor. Toyota immediately began an investigation and recovered the seat belt assembly for confirmation of the problem and an examination of its retractor. As a result, it was found that there was no abnormal condition in the operation of the retractor and the emergency locking system. However, during the examination of the inside of the retractor, it was discovered that the edge of a gear sensor (one of parts of the emergency locking system) could scrape on the retractor housing when the locking system is activated or released. In order to eliminate a possibility of interference between the gear sensor and the housing, the size of the gear sensor was modified in December, 2005.

January 2006 – March 2006

Toyota continued its investigation to identify the cause of the problem. As a result, it was found that there is a possibility that the frictional force generated (as a result of the interference between the gear sensor and the housing) could exceed the return spring force, causing the gear sensor to stick in the locked position. In this condition, the emergency locking system may not release when activated. In such instances, the occupant will not be able to pull the seat belt out of the retractor.

Early April 2006

As a result of the investigation above, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles in the affected range.

This safety campaign will also be conducted in Japan, Canada, Australia, Europe, China, Taiwan and other 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 Lexus dealer for replacement of the front seat belt assemblies (both the driver and the passenger side).

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were produced between July 27, 2005 and January 17, 2006. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Lexus New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under the Lexus's Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

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