

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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October 24, 2006

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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

06V-408
(4 pages)

Re: 2005 - 2006 MY Scion tC Side and Curtain Shield Airbag System
Part 573, Defect Information Report

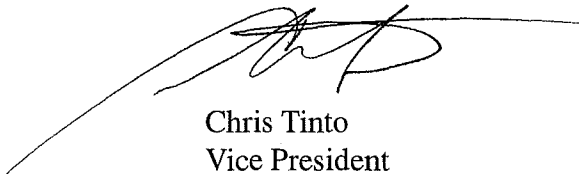
Dear Mr. Smith:

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 Scion tC vehicles to address an issue with the side and curtain shield airbag system.

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 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	Manufact- urer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota Scion tC	2005 through 2006	TMC	DE167	0001011 – 0072439	March 12, 2004 <u>through</u> March 3, 2006

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:

29,542

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

In certain 2005 through late 2006 Model Year Scion tC vehicles, the side airbag and curtain shield airbag may inadvertently deploy. This condition can occur if the door for that side of the vehicle is closed with a high rate of force while the vehicle's ignition is in the "On" position or within 90 seconds of turning the ignition key from the "On" position to the "Off" position. In the worst case, if the side airbag and curtain shield airbags inadvertently deploy, they could cause personal injury if an occupant is seated on the same side of the vehicle as the door that is closed with a high rate of force.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January 2005 – October 2005

Toyota received field information which indicated that a side airbag and curtain shield airbag deployed inadvertently when a customer pulled the door closed while the vehicle's ignition was in the "On" position. Toyota immediately began an investigation on the same model vehicles as well as the vehicle which experienced the inadvertent deployment in the field in order to identify the cause of the deployment. As a result, no abnormality was found with the airbag system. However, it was discovered that the acceleration data from the side airbag sensor, recorded in the airbag ECU, was over the threshold to deploy the side airbag. Based on the result of this investigation, Toyota conducted duplicate tests and found that, under very rare conditions, such as slamming the door shut from the outside of the vehicle with a very high rate of force, there is a possibility that the side airbag may deploy. In order to eliminate any possibility of inadvertent deployment caused by this type of rare usage in the field, Toyota improved the production vehicles by adopting a urethane pad in the front door. In addition, Toyota continued to watch the field information.

November 2005 – Mid October 2006

Toyota received some additional information about inadvertent deployment of the side airbag, including a report on a vehicle produced after the production change. Toyota reopened its investigation, including an examination of the sensing level compared with other models. As a result, it was confirmed that sensing level of the subject vehicles is slightly sensitive when slamming the door with a high rate of force.

Although Toyota has not received any reports involving an injury caused by the inadvertent deployment of the side airbag, there is a possibility that this may occur in the field. Therefore, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles in the affected range.

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 replacement of the side airbag sensor with an improved sensor bracket, and installation of the urethane pad in the front doors if necessary.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The vehicles involved were produced between March 12, 2004 and March 3, 2006. 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 November, 2006, and will be completed in mid December, 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 at the end of October, 2006.