



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 16, 2008

MR. ROGER BLANDFORD
MANAGER PRODUCT SUPPORT
SOUTHEAST TOYOTA DISTRIBUTORS, LLC
100 JIM MORAN BOULEVARD
DEERFIELD BEACH FL 33442

NVS-215dgl
08V-451

SUBJECT: FMVSS 113/PRIMARY HOOD LATCH SYSTEM

DEAR MR. BLANDFORD:

This letter serves to acknowledge Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC's (SET) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 113, "Hood Latch System" in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

SCION/XB/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-451

Mfg's Report Date: September 5, 2008

Components: STRUCTURE: BODY: HOOD: HINGE AND ATTACHMENTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 64

Summary:

SOUTHEAST TOYOTA IS RECALLING 64 MY 2008-2009 SCION XB VEHICLES INSTALLED WITH THE SPORTS GRILL OPTION AND ALSO SEVERAL RADIATOR GRILLS SOLD AS PARTS. THESE VEHICLES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 113, "HOOD LATCH SYSTEM." IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT SHOULD THE PRIMARY HOOD LATCH BE RELEASED OR FAIL, THE PLASTIC UPPER RADIATOR GRILL GARNISH COULD RELEASE THE SECONDARY LATCH AND CAUSE THE HOOD TO OPEN.

Consequence:

DURING VEHICLE OPERATION, IF THE HOOD OPENED, IT COULD OBSTRUCT THE VIEW OF THE DRIVER AND POSSIBLY CAUSE THE HOOD TO STRIKE THE ROOF OR THE WINDSHIELD INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE SPORTS GRILL INSTALLATION AND INSTALL ADDITIONAL CLIPS TO ENSURE THE RADIATOR GRILL GARNISH IS PROPERLY SECURED. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT SOUTHEAST TOYOTA AT 800-301-6859.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577.

The second sentence needs to read: "Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC, has decided that certain 2008 and 2009 Toyota Scion xB vehicles equipped with a Sports Grille (option code YH20) fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 113 "Hood Latch System."

A sentence needs to be added concerning leased vehicles, i.e., "Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days."

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range of vehicles affected by this recall.

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person", written in a cursive style.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement