



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 29, 2009

MR. CHRIS TINTO  
VICE PRESIDENT  
TECHNICAL & REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.  
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW., SUITE 910 SOUTH  
WASHINGTON DC 20005

NVS-215dgl  
09V-031

Subject: SEAT BELT RETRACTOR SOUND INSULATOR

Dear MR. TINTO:

This letter serves to acknowledge Toyota Motor North America, Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect 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:**  
TOYOTA/YARIS/2006-2007

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-031

**Mfg's Report Date:** January 28, 2009

**Components:** SEAT BELTS:FRONT:RETRACTOR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 134,895

**Summary:**

TOYOTA IS RECALLING 134,895 MY 2006-2007 YARIS VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH DRIVER AND FRONT PASSENGER SEAT BELT PRETENSIONERS, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO BE ACTIVATED IN RESPONSE TO A SEVERE FRONTAL IMPACT. WHEN THE SENSOR DETECTS A SEVERE FRONTAL IMPACT, THE FRONT SEAT BELTS ARE QUICKLY DRAWN BACK BY THE RETRACTORS SO THAT THE BELTS SNUGLY RESTRAIN THE OCCUPANTS. THE INVOLVED VEHICLES CONTAIN A CENTER PILLAR SOUND INSULATOR LOCATED UNDERNEATH EACH FRONT SEATBELT PRETENSIONER.

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF SEAT BELT PRETENSIONER DEPLOYMENT, THE GAS GENERATED MAY AFFECT THE SOUND INSULATORS. IN THE WORST CASE, IF THE SOUND INSULATORS IGNITE, THIS CONDITION WILL RESULT IN A POST-COLLISION FIRE.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL MODIFY THE VEHICLE FREE OF CHARGE. THE MODIFICATION WILL ENTAIL REMOVAL OF THE SMALL URETHANE CENTER PILLAR SOUND INSULATORS (SPONGE) UNDERNEATH THE DRIVER AND FRONT PASSENGER SEAT BELT PRETENSIONERS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING FEBRUARY 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT TOYOTA AT 1-888-270-9371.

**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).

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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 Delia Lopez or Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525 or 202-366-5227, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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 be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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