

TOYOTA

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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January 16, 2009

09V-020
(5 Pages)

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Lexus Vehicle Fuel Delivery Pipe
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 Lexus IS, GS, and LS vehicles to correct an issue with the fuel delivery pipe.

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

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2009 JANUARY 16 -3:00 PM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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	62000010-62 65000018-65	August 23, 2005 through September 25, 2007
			CK262	62000003-62 65000013-65	
			BE262	62000000-62 65000018-65	
	2007		BK262	72021159-72 75025773-75	
			CK262	72008542-72 75007909-75	
			BE262	72006942-72 75011870-75	
	2008		BK262	82057792-82 85050849-85	
			CK262	82019898-82 85015613-85	
			BE262	82011547-82 85017247-85	

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Lexus/ GS	2006	TMC	BH96S	65000028- 65	January 6, 2005 through September 27, 2007
			CH96S	60001017- 60	
	2007		BE96S	70007608- 70	
			CE96S	70001838- 70	
Lexus/ LS	2007		BL46F	75000133-75	May 9, 2006 through September 5, 2007
			GL46F	75000112-75	
	2008		BL46F	85051858-85	
			GL46F	85020680-85	

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:

214,570

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

For the aluminum fuel rails (delivery pipes) located in the engine compartment of the subject vehicles, when E10 ethanol fuel is used, chloric ions are generated from the attached fuel injectors. For the combination of these ions and certain ethanol fuels, which have a lower moisture content among the fuels sold in the U.S., there is a possibility that the inside of the fuel rail(s) may corrode. Corrosion products may then plug the injector(s) and cause a rough engine idle and/or the illumination of an engine warning lamp. If the vehicle is continuously operated in this condition, the corrosion in the fuel rail(s) may expand and, in the worst case, a pinhole may develop on the fuel rail which could result in fuel leakage.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

May 2007 – June 2008

Toyota received some field information from the U.S. and Thailand markets which indicated fuel leakage from the fuel rail. Toyota immediately began an investigation, including an investigation of the returned fuel rails and the fuels used in the vehicles which experienced the problem. As a result, it was found that some portions of the inside surface of the fuel rail corroded, and that ethanol fuel was being used for those vehicles. In addition, Toyota identified that the corrosion is a dry corrosion which can occur due to a reaction between alcohol and aluminum. Although Toyota had not identified the actual cause and mechanism of the corrosion, in order to eliminate any possibility of the occurrence of the corrosion, the coating on the fuel rail was changed in September 2007.

Toyota focused on the moisture content of the ethanol fuel, which greatly contribute to the dry corrosion, and investigated the ethanol fuels sold in the U.S. and Thailand. In addition, Toyota investigated other factors which could contribute to the corrosion. As a result, it was found that there are ethanol fuels which have very low moisture content among the fuels sold in Thailand, which could lead to the corrosion without any other factors. Therefore, Toyota initiated a campaign in Thailand to replace the fuel rails with ones with the new coating in June 2008.

June 2008 – December 2008

At this moment, since Toyota had not found any ethanol fuel sold in the U.S. with low moisture content which could lead to the corrosion by itself, Toyota continued the investigation on the ethanol fuel sold in the U.S., but also investigated other factors which could contribute to the corrosion. As a result, although Toyota did not find any ethanol fuel with a low enough moisture content which by itself could lead to the corrosion, it was confirmed that, due to chloric ions generated from the fuel injectors, there is a possibility that the corrosion may occur inside of the fuel rail with ethanol fuels which have a lower moisture content among the fuels sold in the U.S.

Beginning of January 2009

As a result of the investigation above, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of all vehicles with the subject fuel rails within 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 Lexus dealer for a replacement of the fuel rails.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

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 February and be completed in late April 2009.

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 the middle of January 2009.