TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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09V-031
(4 Pages)

January 28, 2009

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

Re: Toyota Yaris Seatbelt Retractor Sound Insulator
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 Toyota Yaris vehicles to correct an issue involving a sound insulator.

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

RECEIVED
2009 JANUARY 29 – 9:00 AM
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	
Toyota Yaris	2006	TMC	JT903	65008928-65	August 22, 2005 through April 6, 2007
			JT923	65008921-65	
	2007		JT903	75028754-75	
			JT923	75028776-75	
			BT903	71000575-71	
			BT923	71000574-71	

Note: Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles within these ranges were sold in the U.S.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

134,895

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

Installed in the subject vehicles, underneath the front seatbelt retractor with pyrotechnic pretensioner, is a sound insulator located at the bottom of the front door (B) pillar. There is a possibility that the sound insulator may become damaged by the high temperature gas generated from the seat belt pretensioner when it is activated in the event of a crash. In the worst case, if the insulator ignites, this condition may result in a post-collision fire.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

March 2007 – December 2008

Toyota received a field report from the Japan market which indicated that smoke came out of the B pillar after a crash. Toyota immediately inspected the vehicle which experienced the problem. As a result, it was confirmed that the portion around the seatbelt retractor had burned. Since the problem occurred immediately after the crash and the pyrotechnic pretensioner had been activated, Toyota assumed that the urethane sound insulator located underneath the retractor had ignited for some reason when the pretensioner had been activated. In order to eliminate any possibility of the ignition of the insulator, the insulator was removed from production in April 2007.

As a result of the investigation of the returned seatbelt retractor, it was found that the length of the retracted belt by the activated pretensioner was much shorter compared with the one in certain crash tests (e.g. FMVSS208 tests). This may occur when the pretensioner is activated in the condition that the seatbelt is extended until the occupant cannot be restrained to the seat. In addition, it was found that a similar incident had occurred on another vehicle, under the condition that the seatbelt was buckled with no occupant in the passenger seat, which could result in the seatbelt retracted much longer than normal when the pretentioner was activated.

After further investigations, including replication tests, it was discovered that, if the length of the retracted belt by the activated pretensioner is either extremely short or extremely long, the high temperature gas generated from the pretensioner may leak from the retractor, causing the sound insulator underneath the retractor to be damaged or possibly ignited. Although Toyota believed that this incident was quite rare in normal usage of the vehicle, it was found that there may be a possibility that the problem could occur when the pretensioner is intentionally activated prior to disposal of the vehicle, since the seatbelt will most likely be fully retracted.

January 2009

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

This safety campaign will also be conducted in Japan, Canada, Australia, Europe 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 a Toyota dealer for repair. The repair will involve the removal of the small urethane sound insulators.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies for Toyota Vehicles
Toyota does not plan to provide notice about reimbursement to owners because the majority of vehicles are covered under the new vehicle warranty and the highly unlikely nature of this issue. However, if requested by a consumer, Toyota will review the claim and provide appropriate reimbursement.

8. Recall Schedule:

Toyota's mailing of the owner notifications will commence in the middle of February and be completed in the middle of March 2009.

Copies of the owner notification and dealer instructions will be submitted as soon as they are available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

Toyota's notifications to distributors/dealers will be sent in the end of January 2009.