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TOYOTA

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

WASHINGTON OFFICE
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW, SUITE 910 SOUTH, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

TEL: (202) 775-1700
FAX: (202) 463-8513

April 16, 2010

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

Re: 1998-2010 MY Toyota Sienna Spare Tire Carrier Assembly
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 Sienna vehicles to address an issue with the spare tire carrier assembly.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 775-1707.

Sincerely,
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

/for/
Chris Santucci, Manager
Technical & Regulatory Affairs

CS:mh
Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc.["TMMK"]
1001 Cherry Blossom Way, Georgetown, KY 40324

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. ["TMMI"]
4000 South Tulip Tree Drive, Princeton, IN 47670-4000Affiliated U.S. Sales Company
Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. ["TMS"]
19001 South Western Avenue, Torrance, California 90509

Component Containing Defect
Spare Tire Carrier Assembly
The supplier of this component is:
Flex-N-Gate
1306 East University Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802
Telephone: 217-278-2600

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on production records, we have determined the possible affected vehicle population as in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac-turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Sienna	1998 - 2003	TMMK	GF13C*	U000021 - U125596	1997/8/7 - 2003/1/3
			GF19C*	U000018 - U313355	
			MF19C*	U000055 - U070516	
			ZF13C*	U250332 - U319644	
			ZF19C*	U253475 - U319637	
	2004 - 2010	TMMI	KK4CC*	S289080 - S343710	2003/1/16 - 2010/1/4
			YK4CC*	S289081 - S343704	
			ZA22C*	S000027 - S587358	
			ZA23C*	S000044 - S587357	
			ZK22C*	S000023 - S289052	
			ZK23C*	S000018 - S289072	

Note: (1) Only vehicles originally sold or currently registered in the following cold climate states with high road salt usage are affected: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. Only portions of the listed states may exhibit the cold climate and high road salt usage which can cause this condition. To simplify administration of this campaign and avoid confusion, Toyota has elected to include the entire states listed above rather than a portion. Therefore, contiguous states not identified above are not involved.

(2) 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:

TBD

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

The subject vehicles are equipped with the spare tire stowed under the vehicle. If the vehicle is operated in the cold climate regions of the United States where road salts are frequently used, water splashed backwards with high concentrations of road salt can reach the spare tire carrier and corrode the spare tire carrier assembly cable. In an extreme case, the cable may break due to excessive corrosion and the spare tire may separate from the vehicle.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

May 2009
In May 2009, Toyota received a field technical report from the Canadian market which indicated spare tire cable separation on a 2004 MY Sienna; the broken part was also received. Toyota investigated this part and found that the end of the cable was broken due to excessive corrosion.

June 2009
After receiving additional similar field technical reports, Toyota initiated a random parts recovery of in-use parts for both the 1st generation (MY1998-2003) and the 2nd generation (MY2004-2010) Sienna vehicles from Canada and the U.S. to try to investigate at least 100 cables to clarify whether this concern was caused by extraordinary environment conditions or for other reasons.

August 2009
The first batch of 16 recovered in-use parts from Canada arrived at Toyota. Toyota then started an analysis of the condition of the cables by measuring cut sections of the rusting area. No other broken parts other than the first one received in May were recovered at this point in time.

September 2009
Toyota started to prepare for corrosion duplication testing using new parts by employing "Test Method for Accelerated Corrosion under Complex Environment" (CCT test method). The preparation of jigs necessary to conduct the testing took more than one month with trials and errors.

October 2009
CCT testing of new parts was started.

December 2009
By the end of December 2009, a total of 39 randomly recovered parts from the U.S. and Canada had arrived at Toyota and were analyzed. CCT testing of the new parts was on-going.

January 2010
CCT testing of new parts continued.

February 2010
Toyota determined that more broken parts were needed for its analysis. A second broken part from Canada and the first broken part from the U.S. were received at Toyota.

March 2010
Toyota received an inquiry letter from Transport Canada regarding 2 cases of cable breakage on the 1st generation Sienna.

April 2010
As a result of the random in-use parts recovery, broken parts analysis, and the evaluation of CCT testing, it was clarified that excessive corrosion can develop around the end of the cable in regions where heavy road salt is used; however, little corrosion develops on the cable in the other regions.

April 15, 2010
Toyota determined that this condition presented an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety and decided to conduct a voluntary recall.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

TBD

8. Recall Schedule:

TBD

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

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

TBD