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TOYOTA

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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

11V-112
(4 Pages)

TEL: (202) 775-1700

FAX: (202) 463-8513

February 24, 2011

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE - Room W45-306
Washington, D.C. 20590

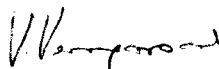
Re: Various MY Toyota Highlander and Lexus RX Floor Carpet Cover
Part 573, Defect Information Report

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 Highlander and Lexus RX vehicles to address an issue with the floor carpet cover.

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

Sincerely,



Vinnie Venugopal
General Manager
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
North America, Inc.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"]
1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-city, Aichi-ken, 471-8571, Japan

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. ["TMMC"]
1055 Fountain Street North, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N3H 5K2

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/ Highlander Highlander HYBRID	2004 - 2006	TMC	##21#	40001005 - 40105684	August 22, 2003 through July 26, 2006
				50001002 - 50136405	
				60001003 - 60186758	
Lexus/ RX330 RX350 RX400h	2004 - 2007	TMC	##31#	40001010 - 40074277	February 10, 2003 through July 26, 2006
				50001014 - 50098527	
				60001007 - 62007117	
				70001007 - 72017229	
		TMMC	##31#	4C001001 - 4C039897	September 22, 2003 through August 31, 2006
				5C018659 - 5C087493	
				6C042219 - 6C109798	
				7C001006 - 7C027928	

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:

Toyota Highlander, Highlander HYBRID:	397,233
Lexus RX330, RX350, RX400h:	372,146
Total:	769,379

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

If the forward retention clip used to secure the floor carpet cover, which is located in front of the center console, is not installed properly, the cover may lean toward the accelerator pedal and interfere with the accelerator pedal arm. If this occurs, the accelerator pedal may temporarily become stuck in a partially depressed position rather than return to the idle position.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

August 2010 – November 2010

Toyota received one dealership product report and two field technical reports from the U.S. market concerning two 2005 model year RX vehicles produced at the TMMC plant which indicated that the floor carpet cover leaned toward and contacted the accelerator pedal arm when the accelerator pedal was depressed. The reports also indicated that both of two retention clips for the cover were missing from the cover in the two vehicles (one of the clips was found on the carpet in the one of the vehicles).

Due to the vehicles' mileage (124,727 miles and 78,187 miles) and time in service (more than five years since the vehicles were produced), Toyota investigated their service and accident history, but no history related to removal of the floor carpet cover or the clips could be confirmed.

Toyota then focused on RX vehicles produced at the TMMC plant and started a field investigation to check the condition of the clips and all related parts in those vehicles.

December 2010 – February 2011

In December, Toyota received an additional field technical report from the U.S. market which indicated that the forward retention clip was missing in a 2007 model year RX vehicle produced at the TMMC plant and that the cover interfered with the return travel of the accelerator pedal during certain right hand turns. Toyota found that the missing clip in this incident vehicle was the same type as the one Toyota used as the remedy for a previous recall (06V-253) and used in production. Toyota obtained this vehicle to conduct a more detailed investigation.

At the same time, Toyota found during a field investigation that one vehicle out of the twenty-two RX vehicles produced at the TMMC plant it examined did not have the forward retention clip.

Toyota conducted duplication testing using the RX vehicle it obtained, and it was confirmed that, if the forward clip or both clips are disengaged, the accelerator pedal may temporarily become stuck in a partially depressed position by the unsecured floor carpet cover when returning to the idle position. In addition, it was also confirmed that, if the clips are installed properly, they will not come off during normal usage of the vehicle.

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Based on the investigation results, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall on the subject RX vehicles produced at the TMMC plant to replace the floor carpet cover with a newly designed one which was introduced in production in July - August 2006 and which will prevent interference with the accelerator pedal arm. Toyota also decided to include in this recall the subject Highlander and RX vehicles produced at the TMC plant in Japan that were equipped with the previously designed cover.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

Toyota intends to replace the floor carpet cover in the subject vehicles with the newly designed one when sufficient parts become available. Until then, all known owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail with instructions how to confirm that the floor carpet cover is properly secured. If the cover is not secured, the dealer will secure it as an interim remedy at no charge. Once the replacement covers become available, owners will be notified again and the cover will be replaced with the newly designed one without charge.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have had the floor carpet cover replaced for this condition prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement by mailing a copy of their repair order, proof-of-payment, and proof-of-ownership for reimbursement consideration.

8. Recall Schedule:

TBD

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

TBD