

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. 19001 South Western Avenue, S207 Torrance, CA 90509-2991

TMS-NTC-12047 March 12, 2012

Recall Management Division National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: Toyota Safety Recall 12V-091 - Preliminary Dealer Notification

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the <u>Preliminary</u> Dealer Notification Letter for Toyota Safety Recall 12V-091 on the following Toyota vehicles:

• Certain 2009 Model Year Camry & 2009 to Certain 2011 Model Year Venza

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (310) 468-3392.

Sincerely,

Gèor se Moriño

National Manager, Quality Compliance

Attachments:

• Toyota 12V-091 (C0E) Dealer Notification (Prelim)

Lonnie Peterson / TMS Toyota Customer Services Product Quality and Service Support, Quality Compliance March 7, 2012 Approved By: Bob Waltz

To:All Toyota DealersFrom:Toyota Customer Services

Safety Recall C0E (Interim C1E) – *Preliminary Notice* Certain 2009 Model Year Camry & 2009 to Certain 2011 Model Year Venza Stop Lamp Switch Replacement

******URGENT*****

On March 7, 2011, Toyota filed a Defect Information Report (DIR) with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) informing the agency of our intent to conduct a voluntary Safety Recall on certain 2009 Model Year Camry and 2009 to certain 2011 Model Year Venza Vehicles.

This preliminary information is being provided to keep you informed of the filing. <u>Toyota is currently preparing</u> <u>sufficient quantities of the remedy parts.</u> We will notify dealerships again at the time of the remedy phase, prior to the owner notification starting.

Condition

During assembly of the contact-type stop lamp switch into the vehicle, silicon grease may have come into contact with the surface of the switch. If the grease reaches the contact surface inside the switch, silica may be generated, and the contact resistance could increase. If this occurs, warning lamps could be illuminated, a no start condition could result, or the shift lever may not shift from the "Park" position. In some cases, the vehicle stop lamps could become inoperative. This could increase the risk of a crash.

Covered Vehicles

- Certain 2009 Model Year Toyota Camry and 2009 to Certain 2011 Model Year Venza vehicles are covered by this Safety Recall. This represents approximately 187,000 vehicles.
- The Camry vehicles were produced from early July 2008 to late February, 2009; affected Venza models were produced from late October, 2008 (SOP) to early January, 2011

<u>Status</u>

- C0E ("C1E" until the remedy is launched) Preliminary Notification documents will be posted on TIS starting the morning of Wednesday, March 7, 2012. *For reference purposes only*, VINs covered by this Safety Recall will be searchable on TIS starting Wednesday morning, March 7, 2012 (Pacific Time).
- Toyota is currently preparing sufficient quantities of the remedy parts.
- Dealers will receive a Safety Recall Dealer Package (remedy phase) in *late March, 2012* which will include the technical instructions and reimbursement procedures. The remedy will entail replacement of the Stop Lamp Switch at **no charge** to the vehicle owner.
- We anticipate the Owner Notification Letters (remedy) will be sent by first class mail beginning in early April 2012. Approximately one week after the dealer notification.

Media Contacts

It is imperative that all media contacts (local and national) receive a consistent message. In this regard, all media contacts must be directed to Brian Lyons (310) 468-2552 in Toyota Corporate Communications. (Please do not provide this number to customers. Please provide this contact to only media associates.)

Pre-Owned Vehicles in Dealer Inventory

Toyota generally requests that dealers do not deliver any pre-owned vehicles in dealer inventory that are covered by a Safety Recall until the vehicle has been remedied. However, in this case, until the remedy is available dealers can deliver pre-owned vehicles if they disclose to the customer that the vehicle is subject to a Safety Recall and Toyota will send them a notification when the remedy is available.

Customer Handling

A Q&A is attached to help respond to any customer concerns. If the customer has any further questions, they are requested to contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center. The Toyota Customer Experience Center can be reached at 1-888-270-9371 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, or Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

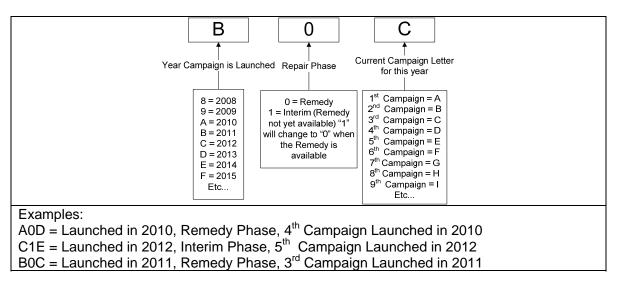
Handling of Vehicles Exhibiting this Condition

If a customer contacts a dealership and has experienced the condition described, dealerships are requested to assist them by setting up an appointment to diagnose the condition.

If the condition is verified, please assist the customer by repairing the vehicle at **no charge**. The necessary parts can be ordered through your facing PDC. *At this time Toyota has a very limited number of parts available to support vehicle repairs. Only order parts for vehicles currently experiencing the condition described.* The parts have been placed on dealer ordering solutions; please see the weekly manual allocation report for maximum allowed order quantities. *All parts replaced for this Safety Recall are subject to Warranty Parts Recovery.*

Warranty Reimbursement Procedures will be provided in the remedy phase.

Campaign Designation Decoder



Dealership associates that have any questions are requested to contact their District Service/Parts Manager.

Please review this preliminary notification with your staff to assure that all relevant personnel have been briefed regarding this subject.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ΤΟΥΟΤΑ

Safety Recall C0E – (C1E) Preliminary Notice Certain 2009 Model Year Toyota Camry & 2009 to certain 2011 Model Year Venza Stop Lamp Switch Replacement – Q&A

Background

On March 7, 2012, Toyota filed a Defect Information Report (DIR) with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) informing the agency of our intent to conduct a voluntary Safety Recall on certain 2009 Model Year Camry and 2009 to certain 2011 Model Year Venza Vehicles.

<u>Toyota is currently working on obtaining sufficient quantities of replacement parts.</u> We will notify dealerships again when replacement parts are available.

Q1: What is the condition?

A1: During assembly of the contact-type stop lamp switch into the vehicle, silicon grease may have come into contact with the surface of the switch. If the grease reaches the contact surface inside the switch, silica may be generated, and the contact resistance could increase. If this occurs, warning lamps could be illuminated, a no start condition could result, or the shift lever may not shift from the "Park" position. In some cases, the vehicle stop lamps could become inoperative. This could increase the risk of a crash.

Q1a: What is the function of the Stop Lamp Switch?

A1a: The Stop Lamp Switch provides a signal to the vehicle's Electronic Control Unit that indicates the brake pedal has been depressed and illuminates the vehicle stop lamps.

Q2: Are there any warnings that this condition has occurred?

A2: If this condition has occurred, the brake warning lamps may illuminate.

Q3: Which and how many vehicles are covered by this Safety Recall?

A3: There are approximately 70,500 Camry and 116,000 Venza vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.

| Model Name | Model Year | Production Period | Number of Vehicles (Approx.) |
|------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Camry | Certain 2009 | July 2008 to February, 2009 | 70,500 |
| Venza | 2009 to Certain 2011 | October, 2008 (SOP) to January, 2011 | 116,000 |

Q3a: Are there any other Toyota or Lexus vehicles covered?

A3a: No, this condition only affects certain 2009 Model Year Camry and 2009 to certain 2011 Model Year Venza vehicles.

<u>Q3b: Are all Camry vehicles covered by this Safety Recall?</u>

A3b: No. The potential exposure of the Stop Lamp Switch to silicon grease only occurred on one production line at the vehicle assembly plant.

Q3c: Why are other Toyota vehicles not covered by this Safety Recall.

A3c: The potential exposure of the Stop Lamp Switch to silicon grease only occurred on one production line at the vehicle assembly plant and only affects contact-type switches.

Q4: What is Toyota going to do?

A4: Toyota is currently working on obtaining the necessary replacement parts.

Once the replacement parts have been produced in sufficient quantities, Toyota will send (consistent with parts availability and repair capacity) an owner notification by first class mail advising owners to make an appointment with his/her authorized Toyota dealer replace the Stop Lamp Switch at **no charge**.

Q5: Have there been any accidents or injuries reported?

A5: Toyota is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to inoperative vehicle stop lamps.

Q6: How long will the repair take?

A6: The repair will take approximately 30 minutes. However, depending upon the dealer's work schedule, it may be necessary to make the vehicle available for a longer period of time.

Q7: What if a customer has previously paid for repairs to his/her vehicle for this condition?

A7: Reimbursement consideration instructions will be provided in the owner notification letter when sufficient parts become available.

Q8: What should an owner do if they experience the condition?

A8: Owners are requested to contact their local Toyota dealer for diagnosis and appropriate repair.

Q9: What if an owner has additional questions or concerns?

A9: Owners with questions or concerns are asked to please contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-888-270-9371 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, or Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

ΤΟΥΟΤΑ

March 7, 2012

Toyota Fast Facts is an update on Toyota and industry news. Please feel free to share this information with family and friends. For more news, visit <u>www.toyotanewsroom.com</u>.

Toyota Announces Voluntary Safety Recalls of Certain Camry, Venza and Tacoma Vehicles

Toyota Motor Sales announced that it will conduct a safety recall involving certain 2009 Camry and 2009 to certain 2011 Venza vehicles to replace the stop lamp switch. Approximately 70,500 Camry and 116,000 Venza vehicles are covered by this recall.

During installation of the contact-type stop lamp switch on one of the North American assembly lines, silicon grease may have reached the inside of the switch and caused an increase in electrical resistance. If this occurs, warning lamps on the instrument panel may be illuminated, the vehicle may not start, or the shift lever may not shift from the "Park" position. In some cases, the vehicle stop lamps may become inoperative. Toyota is not aware of any accidents or injuries caused by this condition.

Additionally, certain 2005 to early 2009 Tacoma vehicles will be recalled to replace the steering wheel spiral cable assembly. Approximately 495,000 Tacoma vehicles are covered by this recall.

Due to the combination of steering wheel spiral cable design and characteristics unique to the Tacoma chassis, friction between the spiral cable and the retainer in the steering wheel spiral cable assembly may occur in some vehicles. Friction over time may result in loss of connectivity to the driver's air bag module. If connectivity is lost, the air bag warning lamp on the instrument panel will remain illuminated after starting the vehicle and the driver's air bag may be deactivated, preventing deployment in the event of a crash. Toyota is not aware of any accidents or injuries caused by this condition.

No other Toyota vehicles are involved nor these models distributed outside the North American market. Detailed information is available to customers at <u>www.toyota.com/recall</u> and the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-800-331-4331.