



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

TMS-NTC-12311
December 20, 2012

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

Re: Toyota Safety Recall 12V-537 Owner Notification

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached, for your records, representative copies of the previously approved Owner Notification Letter for Safety Recall 12V-537 on the following Toyota vehicles:

- 2004 to certain 2009 Model Year Prius

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (310) 468-5316.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. K.", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Quality Compliance Assistant Manager

Attachments:

- Toyota 12V-537 (C0T) Owner Notification (Interim)
- Toyota 12V-537 (C0T) Owner Notification (Remedy)



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

URGENT SAFETY RECALL

This is an important Safety Recall.
The remedy will be performed at
NO CHARGE to you.

**2004 to certain 2009 Model Year Prius Vehicles
COT – Steering Intermediate Extension Shaft
SAFETY RECALL NOTICE (Remedy Available)**

[VIN]

Dear Toyota Customer:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Toyota has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some 2004 to certain 2009 Model Year Prius vehicles.

What is the condition?

The steering intermediate extension shaft (“extension shaft”) is a component of the steering assembly and connects the steering column to the steering rack. Due to insufficient hardness of the extension shaft supplied by a specific supplier, the splines which connect the extension shaft to the steering gear box could deform if the steering wheel is frequently and forcefully turned to the full-lock position while driving at a slow speed, such as parking in a tight parking space. The splines could eventually wear out over time, which could result in loss of steering ability, increasing the risk of a crash.

What will Toyota do?

The remedy for your vehicle is available. Any authorized Toyota dealer will perform an inspection of the steering intermediate extension shaft. If the shaft is one supplied with insufficient hardness, it will be replaced. The inspection and, if necessary, replacement of the steering intermediate extension shaft will be performed at **NO CHARGE** to you.

What should you do?

This is an important Safety Recall

Please contact any authorized Toyota dealer and make an appointment to have the remedy performed as soon as possible.

The inspection and, if necessary, replacement of the steering intermediate extension shaft will take approximately 1 hour. However, depending upon the dealer’s work schedule, it may be necessary to make your vehicle available for a longer period of time.

You do not need an owner letter to have this recall completed; however, to assist the dealer in confirming vehicle eligibility, we request that you present this notice at the time of your service appointment.

If you would like to update your vehicle ownership or contact information, you may do so by registering at www.toyota.com/ownersupdate. You will need your full 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to input the new information.

What if you have other questions?

- Your local Toyota dealer will be more than happy to answer any of your questions and set up an appointment to perform the repair.
- You can find additional information and locate a Toyota dealer in your area by going online and visiting www.toyota.com/recall.
- Additional information is also available by contacting 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.

If you believe that the dealer or Toyota has failed or is unable to remedy the defect within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590, or call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hot Line at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

What if you have previously paid for repairs to your vehicle for this specific condition?

If you have previously paid for repair to your vehicle for this specific condition prior to receiving this letter, please mail a copy of your repair order, proof-of-payment and proof-of-ownership to the following address for reimbursement consideration:

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., Toyota Customer Experience, WC10, 19001 South Western Avenue, Torrance, CA 90509

Include your name, address, and telephone number(s) in your request. Please allow us 6-8 weeks to process your request.

If you are a vehicle lessor, Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We have sent this notice in the interest of your continued satisfaction with our products, and we sincerely regret any inconvenience this condition may have caused you.

Thank you for driving a Toyota.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC.