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By Recall Management Division at 1:26 pm, Mar 15, 2013

**Toyota Motor Engineering &
Manufacturing North America, Inc.**

Vehicle Safety & Compliance
Liaison Office
Mail Code: S-104
19001 South Western Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

March 15, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Certain Toyota FJ Cruiser Access Door Panel/Seat Belt Anchor
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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 FJ Cruiser vehicles to address an issue with the access door panels that anchor the front seat belts.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (310) 468-1946.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Collins
Manager
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
North America, Inc.

Enclosures
Part 573, Defect Information Report

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

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

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. ["TMS"]
19001 South Western Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501

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/ FJ Cruiser	2007 - 2013	TMC	*U**F	TBD	TBD

Note: No other Toyota or Lexus vehicles use the same access door panel as the subject vehicles.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Approximately 209,000 units

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

The retractors for the front driver and passenger seat belts are mounted in the access door (rear door) panels of the vehicle. Due to insufficient strength of the access door panel, cracks may develop in the panel if the access door is repeatedly and forcefully closed over an extended period of time. If cracks occur in the panel around the lower retractor anchor, the seat belt retractor could become detached, which could increase the risk of injury to an occupant in the event of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

October 2012 – early March 2013

Toyota received a report from a dealer indicating that the driver's seat belt retractor was detached from the access door panel on a MY2007 FJ Cruiser vehicle. Toyota inspected the vehicle and confirmed that the upper seat belt retractor mounting bracket and the access door panel around the area where the lower anchor is secured were separated. The driver's side seat belt assembly and the access door panel were recovered to assess the failure mechanism.

Toyota analyzed the recovered components. Surface analysis of the fractured access door panel around the lower anchor showed fatigue damage, and the surface of the fractured upper mounting bracket indicated low-cycle fatigue damage as a result of the lower anchor separation. No abnormalities were found in the design dimensions or material composition of these components.

Toyota then undertook an investigation of in-use vehicles. It conducted a field survey of 19 vehicles. Cracking was noted at the access door panel around the lower anchor on one high mileage vehicle (approximately six years and three months use and 87,000 miles.) Cracks were also noted in some vehicles in the panel around the upper mounting retainer.

Toyota also conducted replication testing. It was confirmed that, if the access door is repeatedly and forcefully closed over an extended period of time, the access door panel around the lower anchor may crack. This may cause the upper mounting bracket to also separate, resulting in the seat belt retractor becoming fully detached. Small cracks in the panel around the upper mounting retainer do not affect seat belt function or retractor mounting strength.

March 8, 2013

Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

Toyota is currently developing a remedy. Once the remedy is available, we will notify the agency of the corrective repair action.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have paid to have this condition remedied prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement pursuant to Toyota's General Reimbursement Plan.

8. Recall Schedule:

Once the remedy is available, Toyota will provide a separate schedule of the owner notification mailing. A copy of the draft owner notification letter(s) will be submitted as soon as it is available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

Toyota will provide a separate schedule of the dealer notification schedule shortly. Copies of dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.