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(5 pages)

TOYOTA

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Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc.

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

October 17, 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 Avalon/Camry/Venza Vehicles
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 Camry, Avalon, and Venza vehicles to address an issue with the air conditioner radiator assembly.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Abbas Saadat
Vice President
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
North America, Inc.

Enclosures
Part 573, Defect Information Report

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. ["TMMK"]
1001 Cherry Blossom Way, Georgetown, KY, 40324

Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. ["SIA"]
5500 State Road 38 East, Lafayette, Indiana, 47905

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

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

Manufacturer of Air Conditioner Radiator Assembly:

DENSO International America, Inc.
24777 Denso Drive, Southfield, MI, 48086
Telephone: +1-248-350-7500

Country of Origin: USA

2. Identification of Involved Vehicles:

Based on production records, we have determined the involved vehicle population is in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac-turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota/ Avalon Avalon HV	2012 – 2013	TMMK	B***B	CU458892 – CU474015 DU001041 – DU046345	May 9, 2012 through June 5, 2013
Toyota/ Venza	2012 – 2013		**3BB	CU033430 – CU074095 DU033792 – DU092685	May 9, 2012 through May 30, 2013
Toyota/ Camry Camry HV	2012 – 2013		B*1FK	CU001006 – CU637276 DU019882 – DU697724	August 29, 2011 through May 18, 2013
	2012 – 2013	SIA	BF1FK	CR157292 – CR274566 DR239743 – DR314802	September 7, 2011 through May 15, 2013

Note: Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.
No other Toyota or Lexus vehicles use the air conditioner radiator assembly (condenser) with the same seam design as the subject vehicles.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Involved:

Avalon, Avalon HV :	54,080
Venza :	44,724
Camry, Camry HV :	703,965
Total :	802,769

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

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

Condensed water can accumulate at the bottom of the air conditioning condenser unit housing in the subject vehicles if the condenser drain hose becomes clogged. Due to the location of the housing seam, which is directly above the airbag control module, the accumulated water could leak through the seam onto the module. If the circuit board inside the module becomes wet, a short circuit could occur between adjacent terminals of specific circuits, resulting in illumination of the airbag warning light. In some instances, the air bag(s) could become disabled or could inadvertently deploy. An airbag that deploys inadvertently can, under some circumstances, increase the risk of minor injury or the possibility of a crash. An inoperative airbag can increase the risk of injury in a severe crash.

In limited instances, the power steering assist function could become inoperable because the CAN communication line in the airbag control module is damaged. Sudden loss of power steering assist results in increased steering effort and can increase the risk of a crash at low speeds.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

July 2012 – May 2013

Toyota received a report from the U.S. market indicating illumination of the airbag and other warning lights related to the CAN communication line. The inspection of the vehicle indicated that water, which accumulated at the bottom of the air conditioning unit housing due to a clogged drain hose by a spider web, leaked from the housing seam onto the airbag control module located beneath the unit. The airbag control module was recovered and investigated. It was determined that the circuit board became wet, causing a short circuit to occur between adjacent terminals, resulting in illumination of the airbag warning light. Additional reports were received, but, because of the unusual nature of the incidents involving spider webs clogging the drain hose and low occurrence rate, Toyota decided to continue to monitor future field information.

However, to help improve sealing performance and prevent leakage of water onto the airbag control module, a sealant was added to the housing seam in May 2013.

June 2013 – early October 2013

Toyota received a report from the U.S. market indicating inadvertent deployment of the driver's seat side airbag. A vehicle inspection indicated that water from the air conditioning unit had leaked onto the airbag control module due to a clogged drain hose. Toyota received additional information indicating inadvertent deployment of the driver's seat side airbag and left side curtain shield airbag from the Canadian market. Investigation of the recovered module confirmed that, in addition to the circuit board in the module becoming wet, a lateral G-force sensor value was stored in the airbag control module in the absence of a crash event. Focusing on the G-sensor circuits, Toyota further investigated the airbag deployment mechanism and conducted replication testing. It was found that, in the rare event that instantaneous short circuits occur in two specific circuits simultaneously due to the circuit board becoming wet, a G-force sensor value could be misread, causing the airbag(s) to deploy.

October 10, 2013

Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign on the subject vehicles to seal the HVAC housing and install a protective cover on the bottom of the housing above the air bag control module.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Toyota dealer for an inspection, sealing of the HVAC housing, and installation of a protective cover on the bottom of the housing above the airbag control module.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Toyota New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under Toyota's Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Toyota will provide a separate schedule for the remedy owner notification shortly. Copies of the draft remedy and interim owner notification will be submitted as soon as it is available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

A brief preliminary notification to distributors/dealers will be sent in mid-October 2013. Copies of dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued. Toyota will provide a separate schedule for the remedy distributors/dealers notification shortly.