



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

TMS-NTC-13222
September 11, 2013

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

Re: Toyota Safety Recall 13V-396 Preliminary Dealer Notification

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the Preliminary Dealer Notification Letter for Toyota Safety Recall 13V-396 on the following Toyota and Lexus vehicles:

- Certain 2006 through 2010 Model Year Highlander HV
- Certain 2006 to 2008 Model Year RX 400h

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:

- Lexus 13V-396 (DLF) Dealer Notification (Prelim)
- Toyota 13V-396 (D0M) Dealer Notification (Prelim)



September 4, 2013

Subject: Safety Recall DLF (D2F) - **Preliminary Notice**
Certain 2006 to 2008 Model Year RX 400h Vehicles
Intelligent Power Module (IPM) Replacement

Dear Dealer Principal:

On September 4, 2013, Lexus 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 2006 to 2008 model year RX 400h vehicles.

This preliminary information is being provided to keep you informed of the filing. **Lexus is currently preparing the remedy parts for this condition.** We will notify dealers again at the time of the next phase, prior to owner notification starting.

Condition

Within the vehicle, inside the inverter assembly is an Intelligent Power Module (IPM) which contains a control board equipped with transistors. Due to variation in characteristics of transistors in parallel circuits, the temperature of the transistor(s) may exceed the allowable temperature of the solder underneath the transistor. If this occurs, the solder could degrade and eventually cause heat damage to the transistor(s), illuminating various warning lights on the instrument panel. In most cases, the vehicle will enter a fail-safe mode, resulting in reduced motive power in which the vehicle can still be driven for short distances. In limited instances, the fuse of the power supply circuit could blow, causing the hybrid system to shut down and resulting in the vehicle stopping while being driven.

Below are a few highlights of the preliminary notice; please review this entire package with your staff to familiarize them with this notification and implementation requirements.

Covered Vehicles

There are approximately 53,500 certain 2006 to 2008 model year RX 400h vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the United States.

Status/Implementation at Dealerships

- DLF ("D2F" until the remedy is launched) Preliminary Notification documents will be posted on TIS starting the morning of Wednesday, September 4, 2013.
- *Applicable VINs will be available for look-up on TIS starting the morning of Wednesday, September 4, 2013. Please note that any vehicle on which Safety Recall BLD has been completed is not subject to Safety Recall DLF.*
- ***Lexus is currently preparing the remedy parts for this condition.***

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 Cindy Knight (310) 468-2170 in Toyota Corporate Communications. (Please do not provide this number to customers. Please provide this contact to only media associates.)

Customer Handling

A Q&A is attached to assist you in responding to any questions or customer concerns. If the customer has any further questions they are requested to contact the Lexus Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-255-3987 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm PST, or Saturday, 7:00 am through 4:00 pm PST.

Pre-Owned Vehicles in Dealer Inventory

Lexus 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 Lexus will send them a notification when the remedy is available. Please make sure the state DMV records are updated as soon as possible with the new owner name and address.

Also, as a reminder, Lexus CPO policy prohibits the certification of any vehicle with an outstanding Special Service Campaign or Safety Recall, such as this Safety Recall DLF. Thus, no affected units should be sold or delivered as a CPO vehicle until the Safety Recall remedy has been completed on that vehicle.

Please review this preliminary notification with your staff to familiarize them with the proper step-by-step procedures required to implement this Safety Recall.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Attachment

CC: Customer Satisfaction Manager
General Manager
Parts Manager
Pre-owned Manager
Service Manager



Safety Recall DLF (D2F) - **Preliminary Phase**
 Certain 2006 to 2008 Model Year RX 400h Vehicles
 Intelligent Power Module (IPM) Replacement - Q&A

Background

On September 4, 2013, Lexus will file 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 2006 through 2008 model year RX 400h vehicles.

Lexus is currently working on obtaining the necessary replacement parts. We will notify dealerships and owners again when the replacement parts are available.

Q1: What is the condition?





A1: Within the vehicle, inside the inverter assembly is an Intelligent Power Module (IPM) which contains a control board equipped with transistors. Due to variation in characteristics of transistors in parallel circuits, the temperature of the transistor(s) may exceed the allowable temperature of the solder underneath the transistor. If this occurs, the solder could degrade and eventually cause heat damage to the transistor(s), illuminating various warning lights on the instrument panel. In most cases, the vehicle will enter a fail-safe mode, resulting in reduced motive power in which the vehicle can still be driven for short distances. In limited instances, the fuse of the power supply circuit could blow, causing the hybrid system to shut down and resulting in the vehicle stopping while being driven.


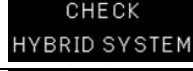
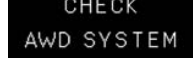
Q1a: What is the Hybrid System Inverter?

A1a: The hybrid system inverter converts high-voltage DC, stored in the HV battery, into AC for the motor generator. It also converts AC into DC during regenerative braking for storage in the HV battery.

Q2: Which Warning Lamps are illuminated on the instrument panel when the vehicle enters fail-safe driving mode?

A2: All of the following warning lights and messages will be illuminated on the instrument panel when the vehicle enters the fail-safe driving mode. The fail-safe driving mode will result in reduced motive power in which the vehicle can still be driven for short distances.

	<i>Warning lights</i>
	Master Warning Light
	Slip Indicator
	Check Engine Warning Light
	Electronically Controlled Brake System Warning Light

	<i>Warning messages</i>
	Malfunction of VSC function is detected.
	Hybrid system malfunction is detected.
	All Wheel Drive system malfunction is detected.

Q2a: How long and what distance can a vehicle be driven when the vehicle enters fail-safe driving mode?

A2a: The distance a vehicle will continue to travel in fail-safe driving mode will vary based upon the hybrid battery state of charge and the road conditions. If a vehicle enters fail-safe driving mode, the driver should pull-over and stop the car in a safe area. The driver should immediately contact his/her local Lexus dealer for assistance.

Q3: *What is Lexus going to do?*

A3: Lexus is currently working on obtaining the necessary replacement parts. Once the replacement parts are available, we will notify owners.

Once the replacement parts have been produced in sufficient quantities, Lexus 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 Lexus dealer to have the Intelligent Power Module inspected and if necessary replaced at no charge.

Q3a: *When does Lexus anticipate the owner notification (remedy) to begin?*

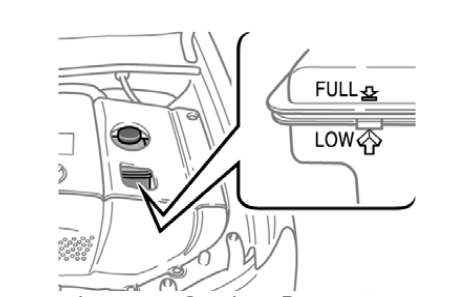
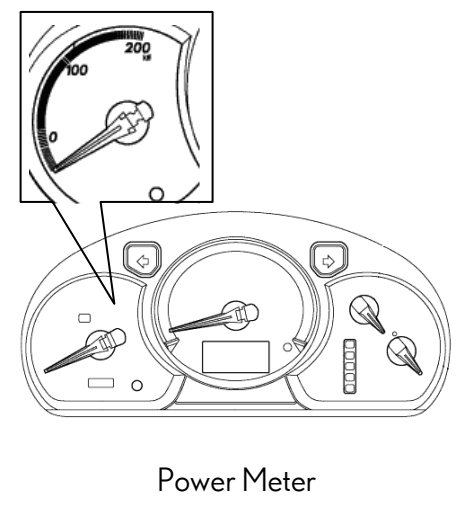
A3a: Lexus anticipates it will take several months to prepare parts in sufficient quantities.

Q3b: *What if this condition occurs before the replacement parts are available?*

A3b: If this condition occurs before the replacement parts are available, the owner should contact an authorized Lexus dealership for diagnosis and an appropriate repair as soon as possible. If the problem is related to the identified condition, the repair will be performed at no charge.

Q4: *What steps can owners take to reduce the possibility of this condition from occurring prior to the availability of the remedy?*

A4: Owners may take the following steps to reduce the possibility of this condition from occurring until the remedy is completed.

 <p>Inverter Coolant Reservoir</p>	<p>(1) Regularly confirm that the coolant level in the inverter coolant reservoir is between FULL and LOW. If the coolant level is below the LOW line, please add coolant up to the FULL line. Lexus dealers will inspect the coolant level, and if necessary, add coolant, at no charge at the customer's request.</p>
 <p>Power Meter</p>	<p>(2) Avoid placing a high load on the Hybrid System. Drivers may do so by refraining from towing with the vehicle until the remedy is completed.</p> <p>(3) Monitor your Power Meter. The Power Meter indicates the immediate output from the Hybrid System in approximate kilowatts. Keep power usage below 100kW as much as possible. Situations where the Power Meter shows output slightly over 100kW for a brief moment should not raise any concerns.</p>

Q4a: *Will this condition occur if the Power Meter shows usage above 100kW?*

A4a: Situations where the Power Meter shows output slightly over 100kW for a brief moment should not raise any concerns. Drivers should refrain from driving conditions where power output exceeds 100kW continuously and/or substantially. Drivers may do so by refraining from towing with the vehicle until the remedy is completed.

Q5: Which and how many vehicles are covered?

A5: There are approximately 53,500 Lexus RX 400h and approximately 79,600 Toyota Highlander HV vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.

Model Name	Model Year	Production Period	Number of Vehicles
Lexus RX 400h	Certain 2006 through 2008	Late February 2005 through early December 2008	Approximately 53,500 units
Toyota Highlander HV	Certain 2006 through 2010	Mid February 2005 through late July 2010	Approximately 79,600 units

Q5a: Are there any other Lexus or Toyota models covered by this Safety Recall?

A5a: No. There are no other Lexus or Toyota models covered by this Safety Recall.

Q6: What if my vehicle was covered by the previous Safety Recall (BLD) for 2006 and 2007 model year RX 400h vehicles hybrid system inverter Intelligent Power Module (IPM)?

A6: If you have still not had Safety Recall BLD performed, please contact any authorized Lexus dealer to schedule an appointment to have the remedy performed as soon as possible.

Q7: What if I have additional questions or concerns?

A7: If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Lexus Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-255-3987 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, or Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

Kathy Wachs / Service and Parts Operations
Lexus Customer Services
September 4, 2013
Approved by: Don Fordiani

Safety Recall DLF (D2F) - Preliminary Notice
Certain 2006 to 2008 Model Year RX 400h Vehicles
Intelligent Power Module (IPM) Replacement

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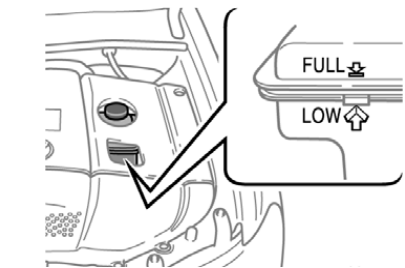
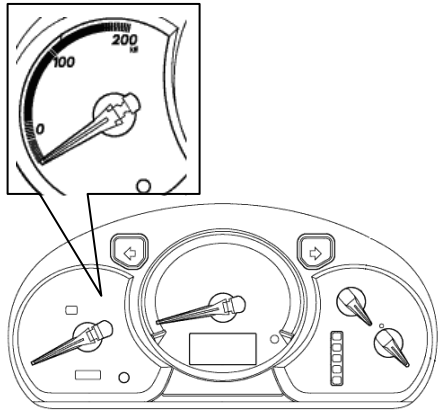
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Sept. 3, 2013

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 www.toyotaneewsroom.com.

Toyota Recalls Highlander and Lexus RX Hybrids for Transistors; Lexus IS and GS for Loose Bolts

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. today announced that it will conduct two voluntary safety recalls. One involves approximately 133,000 MY 2006-2010 Highlander Hybrid and MY 2006-2008 Lexus RX 400h vehicles. The other involves approximately 102,000 MY 2006-2011 Lexus IS 350, IS 350C, and GS 350 vehicles.

In the involved Toyota Highlander Hybrid and Lexus RX 400h vehicles, transistors within the hybrid system's inverter assembly can experience heat damage due to variations in characteristics of the transistors' parallel circuits. Should this occur, various warning lights on the instrument panel will illuminate, and in most cases the vehicle will enter "limp home mode." In limited instances, the hybrid system will shut down and resulting in the vehicle stopping while the vehicle is being driven.

In the involved Lexus IS 350, IS 350C and GS 350 vehicles, bolts used to secure the variable valve timing control device can become loose, causing the vehicle to stop while being driven. Early warning for this condition can be an abnormal noise just after start-up.

Owners of vehicles subject to these recalls will receive a notification by first class mail.

Detailed information is available to customers at www.toyota.com/recall and www.lexus.com/recall and by calling the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-800-331-4331.