



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 9, 2014

Mr. Abbas Saadat
Vice President
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
Vehicle Safety and Compliance
Mail Code: S-104 19001 South Western Ave
Torrance, CA 90501

NVS-215KS
14V-168

Subject: Driver's Air Bag may not Deploy

Dear Mr. Saadat:

This letter serves to acknowledge Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

PONTIAC/VIBE/2009-2010
TOYOTA/COROLLA/2009-2010
TOYOTA/COROLLA MATRIX/2009-2010
TOYOTA/HIGHLANDER/2008-2010
TOYOTA/RAV4/2006-2008
TOYOTA/TACOMA/2009-2010
TOYOTA/YARIS/2006-2010

Mfr's Report Date: April 9, 2014

NHTSA Campaign Number: 14V-168

Components:

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE INFLATOR MODULE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,291,449

Problem Description:

Toyota is recalling certain model year 2006-2008 RAV4, 2006-2010 Yaris, 2008-2010 Highlander, and 2009-2010 Tacoma, Corolla, Corolla Matrix and General Motors Pontiac Vibe vehicles. In the affected vehicles, the steering column assembly contains electrical connections to the driver's airbag module housed in a spiral cable assembly, which includes a Flexible Flat Cable (FFC). Due to the shape and location of the FFC's retainer, the FFC could become damaged when the steering wheel is turned.

Consequence:

If the FFC is damaged, connectivity to the driver's air bag module could be lost and the air bag deactivated. The failure of the driver's air bag to deploy in the event of a crash that typically necessitates deployment increases the risk of injury to the driver.

Remedy:

Toyota will notify the Toyota vehicle owners, and General Motors will notify the Pontiac Vibe owners. Toyota will send their owners an interim notification letter in late April 2014 to advise owners of the recall, and will mail owners a second letter when

remedy parts are available. General Motors has not yet provided a notification schedule for the Pontiac Vibe owners. When the parts are available, dealers will replace the spiral cable assembly, free of charge. Owners may contact Toyota at 1-800-331-4331. Owners may contact General Motors at 1-800-762-2737.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please supply a complete population count when it has been determined.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

The chronology of principal events that lead to this defect decision appears incomplete and does not contain the contextual information required to understand the full meaning of some of Toyota's statements. For example, please explain what you mean when you reported "the failure rates of the other models were low compared to the Tacoma," and what is meant by "some technical field reports on other models." Please also supply a chronology that provides, at a minimum, a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement