

TOYOTA

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By Recall Management division at 1:04 pm, Feb 07, 2014

Toyota Motor Engineering &
Manufacturing North America, Inc.

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

February 7, 2014

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: FMVSS 210, Third Row Middle Seatbelt Assemblies—Certain 2014 Toyota Highlanders
Part 573, Noncompliance 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 Noncompliance Information Report concerning certain 2014 Toyota Highlander vehicles that do not meet certain requirements of FMVSS 210.

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, Noncompliance Information Report

NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. [“TMMI”]
4000 Tulip Tree Drive, Princeton, IN 47670

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/ Highlander	2014	TMMI	**RFH	ES004251 – ES012515	November 20, 2013 through January 18, 2014

Note: Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.

This issue only involves 2014 MY Toyota Highlander vehicles produced at the TMMI plant during the above production period. No other Toyota or Lexus vehicles sold in the U.S. are affected.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

7,067 units

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Noncompliance:

Unknown

5. Description of Noncompliance:

The noncompliance relates to the third row middle seat belt assembly in the subject vehicles. The third row middle seat belt assembly might not have been properly secured to the vehicle floor anchorage during vehicle assembly. If not properly secured, the anchorage, attachment hardware, and attachment bolt do not meet the strength requirement outlined in S4.2 of FMVSS No. 210. A seat belt that is not properly secured to its anchorage could increase the risk of injury to an occupant in the event of a crash.

6. Test results and other information

On January 17, 2014, during an inspection of a vehicle after assembly, it was found that the third row middle seat belt assembly was not properly secured to the vehicle floor anchorage. Toyota did not identify any other vehicle with the same condition at the assembly plant.

Toyota began an inspection of vehicles at its vehicle processing facilities and later found another vehicle with an improperly secured third row middle seat belt assembly.

On January 31, 2014, Toyota determined that some vehicles do not meet the strength requirement outlined in S4.2 of FMVSS No. 210. Toyota is not aware of any reports from the field concerning the issue.

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 to have the third row middle seat belt anchor inspected and, if necessary, properly secured to the vehicle floor anchorage.

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 notify owners in late February 2014. A copy of the draft owner notification letter will be submitted as soon as it is available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

A notification to distributors/dealers was sent on January 31, 2014. Copies of additional dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.