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By Recall Mangement Division at 10:37 am, May 22, 2014

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

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

May 22, 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: Certain Toyota Sienna 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 Sienna vehicles to address an issue with the spare tire carrier 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, Indiana, Inc. ["TMMI"]  
4000 South Tulip Tree Drive, Princeton, IN 47670-4000

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

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

Manufacturer of the Spare Tire Carrier Assembly

Flex-N-Gate  
1306 East University Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802  
Telephone: 217-278-2600  
Country of Origin: U.S.A.

2. Identification of Involved Vehicles:

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

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Sienna	2004 - 2011	TMMI	TBD	TBD	TBD

Note:

- (1) Only vehicles originally sold or currently registered in the following cold climate states with high road salt usage are affected: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. Only portions of the listed states may exhibit the cold climate and high road salt usage which can cause this condition. To simplify the administration of this campaign and avoid confusion, Toyota has elected to include the entire states listed above rather than a portion. Therefore, contiguous states not identified above are not involved.
- (2) Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles within these ranges were sold in the U.S.

- (3) The first generation (MY 1998-2003) Toyota Siennas are not included in this recall. Recall 10V-160 included the first generation (MY 1998-2003) Toyota Siennas, in which part of the remedy included an anti-rust agent application. Toyota believes the anti-rust agent application remedy was effective due to the location of the spare tire carrier assembly (where a splash protector is not necessary).
- (4) Some third generation Toyota Siennas (MY 2011 and later vehicles produced after December 2, 2010) are not included in this recall. Toyota introduced an improved cable during MY 2011 production. Toyota believes this improved cable provides appropriate protection against the effects of corrosion.

3. Total Number of Involved Vehicles:

Approx. 370,000 units

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

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

The subject vehicles are equipped with a spare tire carrier stowed under the vehicle. A light-weight, foam water splash protector is installed in front of the spare tire carrier. Due to variation in the placement of the splash protector or loss of the protector during normal usage, water splashed rearward with high concentrations of road salt can reach the spare tire carrier and corrode the spare tire carrier assembly cable. Some of the subject vehicles (the second generation (MY 2004-2010) Toyota Siennas) were involved in recall 10V-160, in which the remedy included the addition of a water splash protector and an anti-rust agent application to reduce the effects of corrosion. If the splash protector is misplaced or falls from the vehicle on these second generation (MY 2004-2010) Toyota Siennas, the spare tire carrier assembly cable may not have sufficient anti-rust protection even after the anti-rust agent application that was part of the recall remedy. If an involved vehicle is operated in cold climate regions of the United States where road salts are frequently used, in an extreme case, the cable may break due to excessive corrosion and the spare tire may separate from the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

March 2012

Toyota received a field technical report concerning a MY 2006 Sienna which had been remedied under recall 10V-160. The report indicated that the spare tire had fallen off. Toyota believed that this was an isolated case caused by improper recall repair.

May 2012

Toyota received a field technical report from the Canadian market that indicated the spare tire had fallen off on a MY 2011 Sienna which was not involved in recall 10V-160. Toyota investigated the returned spare tire carrier and found a scratch on the resin coating of the spare tire carrier assembly cable. Toyota's investigation concluded that the scratch became an entry point for water to contact the spare tire cable, leading to corrosion of the cable. Toyota believed this was an isolated occurrence.

September 2013 - May 2014

Toyota received additional field technical reports of post remedy occurrences in second generation (MY 2004-2010) Toyota Siennas which were involved in recall 10V-160. Toyota investigated randomly selected vehicles (MY 1998-2010) which were involved in recall 10V-160; vehicles (MY 2011-2013) which were not involved in recall 10V-160 were also evaluated. Investigation results indicated that some of the vehicles had lost the water splash protector during normal usage. In the vehicles that still had the water splash protector, Toyota noted variation in the placement of the splash protector and that the spare tire carrier assembly cable was corroded. Toyota discovered that, if the water splash protector is not installed properly, water splash from normal usage can overcome the anti-rust protection of the spare tire carrier cable and result in corrosion.

May 16, 2014

Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign on the involved vehicles to replace the spare tire carrier assembly with an improved one.

As of late April, 2014, Toyota is not aware of any crashes or injuries caused by this condition in second generation Toyota Siennas (MY 2004-2010) that were remedied under 10V-160 or in third generation Toyota Siennas (early MY 2011). Toyota had received 22 Toyota Field Technical Reports that relate or may relate to this condition for the second generation Toyota Siennas (MY 2004-2010) that were remedied under 10V-160 and 2 Toyota Field Technical Reports that relate or may relate to this condition for the third generation Toyota Siennas (early MY 2011). As of early March, 2014, Toyota had received 220 warranty claims that relate or may relate to this condition for the second generation Toyota Siennas (MY 2004-2010) that

were remedied under 10V-160 and 9 warranty claims that relate or may relate to this condition for the third generation Toyota Siennas (early MY 2011). (Multiple reports of the same incident are counted separately.)

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

- Interim Remedy:

All known owners of the subject vehicles in the cold climate states will be notified by first class mail. Toyota dealers will remove the spare tire and relocate it to the luggage compartment at no cost.

- Permanent Remedy:

When the permanent remedy becomes available, a second mailing will be conducted, notifying owners in the cold climate states and requesting them to return to the dealership. Toyota dealers will replace the spare tire carrier assembly with an improved one at no cost.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies for Toyota

The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have had the spare tire carrier assembly replaced for this condition prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement by mailing a copy of their repair order, proof-of-payment, and proof-of-ownership for reimbursement consideration.

8. Recall Schedule:

Toyota will provide a separate schedule for the owner notification. Copies of draft owner notifications will be submitted as soon as they are available.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

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