

Published January 27, 2016

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. 19001 South Western Avenue Torrance, CA 90501 (310) 468-4000

To: All Toyota Dealer Principals, General Managers, Service Managers, and Parts Managers

Subject: Safety Recall E02 (Interim E12)– Remedy Notice

Certain 2005-2011 Model Year Tacoma Pre-Runner and 4x4 Vehicles

Rear Leaf Spring

On September 29, 2014 Toyota 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 2005-2011 model year Tacoma Pre-Runner and 4x4 vehicles.

Toyota has sufficient parts to begin a phased implementation of the remedy.

## **Condition**

The subject vehicles' rear suspension system contains leaf springs that are constructed of either three or four leaves. There is a possibility that a leaf could fracture due to stress and corrosion. If this occurs and the vehicle continues to be operated, the broken leaf could move out of position and contact surrounding components, including the fuel tank. If the broken leaf contacts the fuel tank repeatedly, it could puncture the tank and cause a fuel leak. In the presence of an ignition source, this could result in a fire.

## Remedy

Toyota dealers are requested to inspect the leaf spring configuration and replace the leaf springs as necessary. In rare cases the leaf spring(s) have the potential to cause additional ancillary damage. In these cases additional repairs may be necessary. Refer to the following table for anticipated remedy launch timing.

Phase	State Registration	Notification Type	TIS Designation	Anticipated Remedy Date
1	MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	Remedy	E02	Late January, 2016
2	CT, NJ, NY	Interim	E12	February, 2016
3	DE, MD, PA, VA, WV	Interim	E12	March, 2016
4	IL, IN, MN, WI	Interim	E12	April, 2016
5	KY, MI, OH, TN	Interim	E12	
6	AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY	Interim	E12	
7	MO, KS, IA, NE, ND, SD	Interim	E12	
8	AK, ID, MT, OR, WA	Interim	E12	TBD
9	CA	Interim	E12	
10	FL, GA, AL, NC, SC	Interim	E12	
11	AR, LA, MS, OK, TX, HI	Interim	E12	

NOTE: VINs will be opened for the remedy based on the vehicle's <u>registered location</u>. Always use TIS to confirm that the remedy is open prior to performing the repair. Vehicles opened for the remedy can have the repair performed at any authorized Toyota dealership regardless of geographical location.

## **Covered Vehicles**

There are approximately 711,000 vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.

Model Name	Model Year	Production Period
Tacoma Pre-Runner, Tacoma 4X4	Certain 2005-2011	September 2004 through October 2010

#### **Owner Letter Mailing Date**

Toyota will begin to notify owners included in Phase 1 in late January, 2016. A sample of the owner notification letter has been included for your reference. Refer to the table in the Remedy section of this letter for anticipated remedy owner notification timing.

Toyota makes significant effort to obtain current customer name and address information from each state through industry resources when mailing owner letters. In the event your dealership receives a notice for a vehicle that was sold prior to the Safety Recall announcement, it is the dealership's responsibility to forward the owner letter to the customer who purchased the vehicle.

Please note that only owners of the covered vehicles will be notified. If you are contacted by an owner who has not yet received a notification, please *verify eligibility by confirming through TIS prior to performing repairs*. Dealers should perform the repair as outlined in the Technical Instructions found on TIS.

### **Pre-Owned Vehicles in Dealer Inventory**

Toyota 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, unless prohibited by your state's law, dealers can deliver un-remedied, pre-owned vehicles if they disclose to the customer that the vehicle is subject to a Safety Recall and Toyota will send them a notification when the remedy is available. We ask that dealers perform a visual inspection of the leaf springs prior to delivery to ensure the vehicle does not have the condition covered by this Safety Recall. If the condition is currently present, the vehicle must be repaired prior to delivery.

Also, as a reminder, Toyota Certified Used Vehicle (TCUV) policy prohibits the certification of any vehicle with an outstanding Special Service Campaign or Safety Recall. Thus, no affected units should be sold or delivered as a TCUV until the Safety Recall has been completed on that vehicle.

## **Technician Training Requirements**

The repair quality of covered vehicles is extremely important to Toyota. All dealership technicians performing this repair are required to successfully complete the most current version of the E-Learning course "Safety Recall and Service Campaign Essentials". To ensure that all vehicles have the repair performed correctly; technicians performing this repair are required to currently hold at least one of the following certification levels:

- Certified Technician (Chassis)
- Expert Technician (Chassis)
- Master Technician
- Master Diagnostic Technician

It is the dealership's responsibility to select technicians with the above certification level or greater to perform this repair. Carefully review your resources, the technician skill level, and ability before assigning technicians to this repair. It is important to consider technician days off and vacation schedules to ensure there are properly trained technicians available to perform this repair at all times.

#### **Remedy Procedures**

Please refer to TIS for Technical Instructions on repair. Conduct all non-completed Safety Recalls and Service Campaigns on the vehicle during the time of appointment.

### **Repair Quality Confirmation**

The repair quality of covered vehicles is extremely important to Toyota. To help ensure that all vehicles have the repair performed correctly, please designate at least one associate (someone other than the individual who performed the repair) to verify the repair quality of every vehicle prior to customer delivery.

#### Parts Ordering Process - Non SET and GST Parts Ordering Process

Due to limited availability, the parts have been placed on either Manual Allocation Control (MAC) or Dealer Ordering Solutions (DOS). As the parts inventory improves, the ordering process may change. Please check the Toyota Special Activities MAC/DOS report on Dealer Daily for the most up-to-date parts ordering information.

As always, if a customer experiences the condition described, dealers should conduct appropriate diagnosis and order the applicable parts.

All Safety Recall, Service Campaign (SSC/LSC) and Customer Support Program (CSP) parts are eligible for the Monthly Parts Return Program. Please refer to PANT Bulletin 2011-087 for campaign parts that are currently returnable under the Monthly Parts Return Program and additional details.

#### Leaf Spring Kit Shipping and Receiving of Parts

Note that the large majority of leaf spring kits will not be stocked at local PDCs; they will shipped directly from a specific NAPO facility located in Texas. Lead time for these kits is expected to be 5-7 business days depending on dealer location. Toyota is currently working to reduce this lead time to 1-3 days.

The leaf spring kits for this campaign are large and heavy, please take note of the following weight and dimension specs when preparing your parts department for receiving these campaign parts.

## **Individual Leaf Spring Kits:**

- Weight 142 lbs
- 61" x 16" x 9.5"

## **Bulk Leaf Spring Kit Packaging:**

- Banded in Sets of 6
- Weight 852 lbs
- Dimension 61" x 32" x 28.5"



## <u>Parts</u>

#### **HARDWARE KIT:**

Part Number	Part Description	Quantity
04005-34104	Leaf Spring Hardware Kit	1

## **LEAF SPRING KITS:**

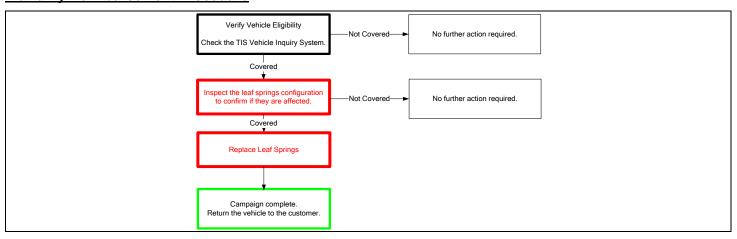
Only one kit is required per vehicle. Ensure you order the correct set based on the vehicle configuration.

Part Number	Part Description	Quantity
04005-34204	Leaf Spring Kit (Regular Cab Models)	1
Part Number	Part Description	Quantity

The following leaf spring kit should only be installed on vehicles who previously had T-SB-0359-10, Rear Spring Harsh Ride, performed on the vehicle. This kit will only be needed in rare cases, the inspection procedure in the TI will identify if this kit is needed.

Part Number	Part Description	Quantity
04005-34404	Leaf Spring Kit (Access/DBL Cab Models with Mexico and Canada Spec Springs)	1

## **Warranty Reimbursement Procedure**



Opcode	Description	Flat Rate Hours
AGGF3A	Inspect and replace rear leaf spring assemblies	2.1
AGGF3B	Inspect leaf spring assemblies, replacement not required	0.2

- The flat rate times include 0.1 hours for administrative cost per unit for the dealership.
- Due to the extended shipping lead time for leaf spring kits, a loaner vehicle or alternative transportation through the Toyota Rent-A-Car (TRAC) can be claimed as a sublet type "RT" under Op. Code AGGF3A. Maximum rental available is 14 days and rentals greater than 4 days or \$35.00 per day requires DSPM authorization as per the Toyota Transportation Assistance Policy (TTAP).

#### **Media Contacts**

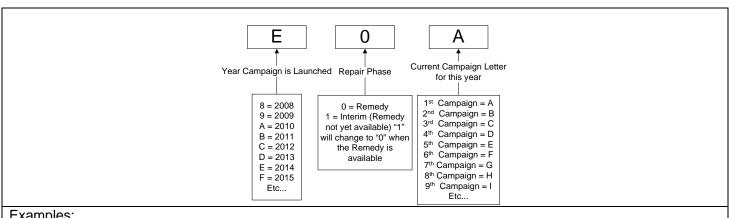
It is imperative that all media contacts (local and national) receive a consistent message. In this regard, all media contacts must be directed to Toyota Corporate Communications (310) 468-2170. (Please do not provide this number to customers. Please provide this contact to only media associates.

## **Customer Contacts**

Customers who receive the owner letter may contact your dealership with questions regarding the letter and/or Safety Recall remedy. Please welcome them to your dealership and answer any questions that they may have. A Q&A is provided to assure a consistent message is communicated.

Customers with additional questions or concerns are asked to please contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center (1-888-270-9371).

#### **Campaign Designation Decoder**



### Examples:

A0D = Launched in 2010, Remedy Phase, 4th Campaign Launched in 2010

C1B = Launched in 2012, Interim Phase, 2<sup>nd</sup> Campaign Launched in 2012

E0A = Launched in 2014, Remedy Phase, 1st Campaign Launched in 2013

Please review this entire package with your Service and Parts staff to familiarize them with the proper stepby-step procedures required to implement this Safety Recall.

Thank you for your cooperation.

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC.



Safety Recall E02 (Interim E12) – Remedy Notice Certain 2005-2011 Model Year Tacoma Pre-Runner and 4x4 Vehicles Rear Leaf Spring

Frequently Asked Questions Published January 27, 2016

Q1: What is the condition?

A1: The subject vehicles' rear suspension system contains leaf springs that are constructed of either three or four leaves. There is a possibility that a leaf could fracture due to stress and corrosion. If this occurs and the vehicle continues to be operated, the broken leaf could move out of position and contact surrounding components, including the fuel tank. If the broken leaf contacts the fuel tank repeatedly, it could puncture the tank and cause a fuel leak. In the presence of an ignition source, this could result in a fire.

Q2: Are there any warnings that this condition exists?

A2: There are no warnings or indicators before this condition occurs. However, if the leaf spring has fractured and moved out of position, it could contact surrounding components, resulting in an audible clunk or bang from the rear of the vehicle. In this condition, it can also be visible looking under the rear of the vehicle.

Q3: What is Toyota going to do?

A3: Toyota will send an owner notification by first class mail advising owners to make an appointment with their authorized Toyota dealer to have the leaf springs replaced at *NO CHARGE*. Toyota will begin mailing the remedy owner letter for Phase 1 of Safety Recall E02. Refer to the following table for anticipated remedy owner notification timing.

Phase	State Registration	Notification Type	TIS Designation	Anticipated Remedy Date
1	MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	Remedy	E02	Late January, 2016
2	CT, NJ, NY	Interim	E12	February, 2016
3	DE, MD, PA, VA, WV	Interim	E12	March, 2016
4	IL, IN, MN, WI	Interim	E12	April, 2016
5	KY, MI, OH, TN	Interim	E12	
6	AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY	Interim	E12	
7	MO, KS, IA, NE, ND, SD	Interim	E12	
8	AK, ID, MT, OR, WA	Interim	E12	TBD
9	CA	Interim	E12	
10	FL, GA, AL, NC, SC	Interim	E12	
11	AR, LA, MS, OK, TX, HI	Interim	E12	

NOTE: VINs will be opened for the remedy based on the vehicle's <u>registered location</u>. Always use TIS to confirm that the remedy is open prior to performing the repair. Vehicles opened for the remedy can have the repair performed at any authorized Toyota dealership regardless of geographical location.

Q4: Which and how many vehicles are covered by this campaign?

A4: There are approximately 711,000 vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.

Model Name	Model Year	Production Period
Tacoma Pre-Runner, Tacoma 4X4	Certain 2005-2011	September 2004 through October 2010

Q4a: Are there any other Lexus/Toyota/Scion vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.?

A4a: No, there are no other Lexus/Toyota/Scion vehicles covered by this Safety Recall.

#### Q4b: Why are other 2WD Tacoma models not covered by this Safety Recall?

A4b: Although the other Tacoma models use the same leaf spring assemblies, the springs are located below the rear axle instead of above the axle. Therefore, if the leaf spring fractures in these models, it will not contact the fuel tank.

## Q5: How long will the repair take?

A5: The repair takes approximately two hours; however, depending upon the dealer's work schedule, it may be necessary to make the vehicle available for a longer period of time.

## Q6: What if I previously paid for repairs related to this campaign?

A6: Reimbursement consideration instructions will be provided in the remedy owner letter.

## Q7: How does Toyota obtain my mailing information?

A7: Toyota uses an industry provider who works with each state's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to receive registration or title information, based upon the DMV records. Please make sure your registration or title information is correct.

## Q8: What if I have addition questions or concerns?

A8: If you have additional questions or concern, please contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-888-270-9371 Monday – Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, or Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

# Certain 2005-2011 Model Year Tacoma Pre-Runner and 4x4 Vehicles Rear Leaf Spring

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE (Remedy Notice)
NHTSA Recall: 14V-604

[VIN]

Dear Toyota Customer:

**URGENT SAFETY RECALL** 

This is an important Safety Recall.

The remedy will be performed at

NO CHARGE to you.

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Toyota has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2005-2011 Model Year Tacoma Pre-Runner and 4x4 vehicles.

You received this notice because our records, which are based primarily on state registration and title data, indicate that you are the current owner.

### What is the condition?

The subject vehicles' rear suspension system contains leaf springs that are constructed of either three or four leaves. There is a possibility that a leaf could fracture due to stress and corrosion. If this occurs and the vehicle continues to be operated, the broken leaf could move out of position and contact surrounding components, including the fuel tank. If the broken leaf contacts the fuel tank repeatedly, it could puncture the tank and cause a fuel leak. In the presence of an ignition source, this could result in a fire.

#### What will Toyota do?

Any authorized Toyota dealer will replace the leaf springs at **NO CHARGE** to you.

#### What should you do?

This is an important Safety Recall

Please contact any authorized Toyota dealer to schedule an appointment to have the remedy performed as soon as possible.

The remedy will take approximately two hours. However, depending on the dealer's work schedule, it may be necessary to make your vehicle available for a longer period of time.

Until the remedy is performed, please be aware of any unusual noise coming from the rear of your vehicle. If the leaf spring has fractured and moved out of position, it could contact surrounding components, resulting in an audible clunk or bang. It can also be visible looking under the rear of the vehicle. If this occurs, contact you Toyota dealer immediately for repair.

#### What if you have other questions?

- Your local Toyota dealer will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.
- If you require further assistance, you may contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-888-270-9371
   Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

If you believe that the dealer or Toyota has failed or is unable to remedy the defect within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590, or call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hot Line at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to <a href="http://www.safercar.gov">http://www.safercar.gov</a>.

If you would like to update your vehicle ownership or contact information, you may do so by registering at <a href="https://www.toyota.com/ownersupdate">www.toyota.com/ownersupdate</a>. You will need your full 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to input the new information.

If you are a vehicle lessor, Federal Law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We have sent this notice in the interest of your continued satisfaction with our products, and we sincerely regret any inconvenience this condition may have caused you.

## What if you have previously paid for repairs to your vehicle for this specific condition?

If you have previously paid for repair to your vehicle for this specific condition prior to receiving this letter, please mail a copy of your repair order, proof-of-payment and proof-of-ownership to the following address for reimbursement consideration:

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. Toyota Customer Experience, WC 10 19001 South Western Avenue Torrance, CA 90509

Thank you for driving a Toyota.

Sincerely,

