



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 30, 2015

Mr. Matthew Collins
Manager
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
Mail Code: S-104
19001 South Western Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

NVS-215SM
15V-043

Subject: Inadvertent Air Bag Deployment

Dear Mr. Collins:

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/2003-2004
TOYOTA/AVALON/2003-2004
TOYOTA/COROLLA/2003-2004
TOYOTA/COROLLA MATRIX/2003-2004

Mfr's Report Date: January 27, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-043

Components:

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,006,849

Problem Description:

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing (Toyota) is recalling certain model year 2003-2004 Toyota Corolla vehicles manufactured December 28, 2001, to May 2, 2004, 2003-2004 Toyota Corolla Matrix vehicles manufactured January 6, 2002, to April 29, 2004, 2003-2004 Avalon vehicles manufactured June 5, 2002, to December 20, 2004, and 2003-2004 Pontiac Vibe vehicles manufactured January 18, 2002, to April 27, 2004. Due to electrical noise, a component in the air bag control module may fail, causing the front air bags, side curtain air bags, and/or seatbelt pretensioners to deploy inadvertently while the vehicle is being operated.

Consequence:

Inadvertent deployment of the air bags or the seat belt pretensioners increases the risk of an injury or crash.

Remedy:

Toyota will notify their owners. Pontiac Vibe owners will be notified by GM. Dealers will replace the air bag control module, free of charge. These parts are not currently available, however, an interim repair is available, free of charge, that reduces the risk of an inadvertent deployment. This recall remedy was applied during earlier recall campaigns of these vehicles under safety recalls 13V-029 and 14V-147. All owners that have not had a recall repair performed under safety recalls 13V-029 or 14V-147 are strongly

encouraged to have it performed and not wait for the final remedy to be deployed to the field. The replacement ECU parts needed for the final remedy are not expected to be available until the latter part of 2015. Owners will be mailed an interim notification in late March 2015 and will be mailed a follow up notification when new air bag control modules are available. Toyota owners may contact Toyota customer service at 1-800-331-4331. Pontiac owners may call 1-800-620-7668. Note: This recall supersedes recalls 13V-029 and 14V-147. Vehicles that had a noise filter installed as the remedy for one of those campaigns need to have the air bag control module replaced under this campaign.

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.

This recall was the subject of a recall query, RQ14-001, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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).

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 Sarah Mcshane who may be reached by phone at 202-366-7401, or by email at sarah.mcshane@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