Kathy Wachs / Service and Parts Operations Lexus Customer Services October 20, 2014 Approved by: Don Fordiani 05-12-15: Additional model year SC 430 vehicles included in coverage

02-24-15 Update: Airbag disablement discontinued

11-25-14 Update: Glove Box hang tag material numbers added 11-13-14 Update: Service Consultant Reference Guide Added

11-13-14 Update: UIO information updated 10-27-14 Update: Operation codes added

10-22-14 Update: Part number for U.S. territories and Hawaii added

Safety Recall ELG - For Areas of High Absolute Humidity Certain 2002 through 2007 Model Year SC 430 Vehicles Front Passenger Airbag Inflator Module

This Safety Recall applies to owners of vehicles originally sold in, or currently/previously registered in, areas of High Absolute Humidity, encompassing the following: Coastal Areas around the Gulf of Mexico for Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana. In addition it will include Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii.

On October 20, 2014, Lexus 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 2002 through 2005 model year SC 430 vehicles.

On May 13, 2015, Lexus will file an amended Defect Information Report (DIR) with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) informing the agency of our intent to expand this voluntary Safety Recall to cover additional 2005 through 2007 Model Year SC 430 vehicles.

#### Condition

The subject vehicles are equipped with front passenger airbag assemblies. When located in areas with consistently high absolute humidity, the front passenger airbag inflator could be susceptible to rupture in a crash. An inflator rupture may result in metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants. The cause of the potential ruptured inflators and influence of high absolute humidity are under investigation.

#### Remedy

Dealers are requested to replace the front passenger airbag inflator module at no charge to the vehicle owner.

#### Involved Vehicles

There are approximately 20,000 vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the United States.

Model	Model Year	Production Period	Approx. UIO
SC 430	2002 through 2007	Early January, 2001 through Early August, 2007	20,000

Please note that only owners of the covered vehicles in areas of high absolute humidity that have not had the airbag inflator module replaced as part of Safety Recall DLC or DSC will be notified. If a dealer is contacted by an owner who has not yet received the notification, please instruct the dealer to verify coverage by confirming through TIS. Dealers should perform the procedure as outlined in the Technical Instructions located on TIS.

#### Owner Letter Mailing

Lexus began mailing to all customers whose vehicle is covered by this Safety Recall in late October, 2014.

Lexus will begin mailing to customers covered by the expansion of Safety Recall ELG beginning late May, 2015. Customers of 2007 Model Year SC 430 vehicles will receive an interim notification as remedy parts for these vehicles are not expected to be available until mid-Summer 2015.

Lexus tries very hard to obtain current customer name and address information 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.

If your dealership is contacted by an owner who has not yet received the notification, please verify coverage by confirming through TIS. Dealers should perform the procedure as outlined in the Technical Instructions located on TIS.

#### Pre-Owned Vehicles in Dealer Inventory

All vehicles in dealership stock that are covered by this Safety Recall must have the passenger airbag inflator replaced before customer delivery.

## Campaign Special Service Tools

Your dealership was sent a package containing special service tools (SSTs) for Safety Recall DLC in July, 2013. These tools will also be used for this campaign.

These tools are needed when performing the front passenger airbag inflator module campaign. These tools ARE NOT available through normal parts or tool channels. There is a limited supply of tools, but if additional tools are needed, contact your Area representative.

Name	Sample Image	Qty
Airbag Mounting Bracket & Hardware	Mounting Bracket Support Bars  Airbag Mounting Hardware Support Bar Hardware	1
Barcode Scanner		1

#### Technician Training Requirements

The repair quality of covered vehicles is extremely important to Lexus. All dealership associates involved in the recall process are required to successfully complete E-Learning course <u>LSC13A</u>. To ensure that all vehicles have the repair performed correctly, technicians performing this repair must also complete <u>LSC13B</u> and be certified to one or more of the following levels:

Master Service Technicians Master Diagnostic Specialists NOTE: To support additional service capacity, Lexus Certified and Senior Service Technicians, with <u>at least 36 months</u> <u>Lexus experience</u> AND <u>L652 course credit</u>, may also perform this repair following successful completion of course LSC13B.

It is the dealership's responsibility to select technicians with the above certification level or greater to perform this Safety Recall 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.

# Campaign Specific Part Associate E-Learning Training Requirement

The airbag inflator assembly being replaced during this campaign is a Class 9 Hazmat part. Therefore, Parts Associates involved in this recall are required to complete E-Learning Module (<u>LSC13F</u> Safety Recall DLC - Front Passenger Airbag Inflator" found on www.LCTPTESTS.com) This E-Learning module will explain the proper procedure for documenting and returning the airbag inflator assembly to TK Holdings Incorporated.

## Shipping Information for Removed Inflator Assemblies

IMPORTANT: Do not deploy the removed inflator. The removed used inflator must be returned, within 1-2 business days after replacement directly to the manufacturer TK Holdings Incorporated.

As the shipper, you are responsible for proper packing and document completion. The person packaging the inflator must have received hazardous material training per 49 CFR 172.702 (EHMOO1 "HazmatU General Awareness Hazardous Materials Training" found on www.LCTPTESTS.com), and the training records must be on file at your dealership. The U.S. Department of Transportation will impose substantial fines and/or penalties on the shipper if the packaging, labeling, or documentation is not properly prepared and Customer Copy of OP 900PRP form is not kept on file for a minimum of 2 years.

Each dealer will need to document a unique dealer specific CCN number on the return shipment form. You can locate your dealer unique CCN number by logging into the following website. The initial default password for this website is XXXXX.

#### http://lexus-dlc.imagespm.info/

In addition to the E-Learning module, a laminated "Campaign DLC - 48 State FEDEX Ground Shipment Preparation" aid was previously sent to each dealership when the DLC Remedy launched. Additional copies of the aid can be found on TIS and inside of each new parts box.

#### Glove Box Reminder Hand Tags

Your dealership will be sent a package of Glove Box Reminder

/ V/ANNIC

Box Reminder Hand Tags: a sample is shown below for your reference.

is an interim action for Lexus Safety Rec.

DO T REMOVE

Please ensure these are applied to any vehicle where the passenger airbay is temporarily disabled. Additional glove box reminder hang tags can be ordered from the Material Distribution Center.

MDC#	Description	Package Qty.
00241-INFTAG-ENG	Safety Recall ELG Glove Box Hang Tags - English	25
00241-INFTAG-SPN	Safety Recall ELG Glove Box Hang Tags - Spanish	25

## Parts Ordering Process

Orders can be placed through each dealer's facing PDC. The kit for 2007MY vehicles is expected to be available in mid-Summer 2015. When available, these parts will be placed on DDMAX and will be systematically released once a day based on established order criteria. Parts and service managers should work together to schedule appointments based on parts availability. (Note: the part for the U.S. territories and Hawaii is on DOS.)

Model Year	Part Number	Description	Quantity/Vehicle
2002 - 2006	04003-28124	49 Continental United States -Inflator Assy Kit, Instr Pln Air	1
2002 - 2006	04003-11124	U.S. Territories and Hawaii: Inflator Assy Kit, Instr. Pln Air	1
2007	TBD		1

In the limited cases, where the serial number is illegible, the airbag assembly will require replacement. <u>Please contact</u> your Area representative for further direction on vehicle repair and claim filing procedures.

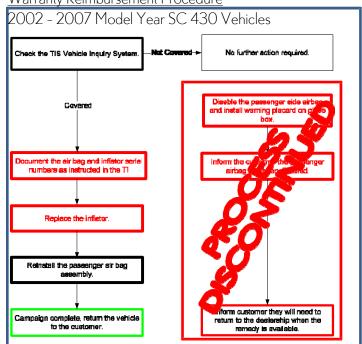
#### IMPORTANT PARTS ORDERING UPDATE

All Safety Recall, Service Campaign (SSC/LSC) and Customer Support Program (CSP) parts are eligible for the Monthly Parts Return Program. Please refer to Service and Parts Operations Communication 2011-20 for campaign parts that are currently returnable under the Monthly Parts Return Program and additional details.

#### Remedy Procedures

Please refer to TIS for Technical Instructions on inspection and repair.

## Warranty Reimbursement Procedure



Model	Operation Code	Description	Flat Rate Time*
	AGGC7F	Replace Airbag Inflator Assembly	5.5 hours/vehicle
SC 430	AGGC9B	Disable Airbag Inflator Assembly and Install Glove Box Reminder Hang Tag	0.3 hr/vehicle

- Dealers are requested to immediately stop disabling passenger airbag assemblies. All repair orders must be closed no later than February 27, 2015, and claims filed as soon as possible.
- The flat rate times include 0.1 hours for administrative cost per unit for the dealership.
- The cost of Electrical Tape and Zip Ties can be claimed as sublet type "ZZ" at maximum of \$0.25 per vehicle under Op Code AGGC9B.
- A customer rental can be claimed under opcode AGGC7F for a maximum of \$45/day up to 120 days as sublet type "RT" if the part was on backorder.
- Towing can be claimed under opcode AGGC7F or AGGC9B for a maximum of \$250 as sublet "TW" in the event the customer requested vehicle pick up.

Lexus' usual customer care amenities of car wash and fuel tank fill apply.

#### Repair Quality Confirmation

The repair quality of covered vehicles is extremely important to Lexus. 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.

#### 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 Cindy Knight, (310) 468-2170 in Toyota Corporate Communications. (Please do not provide this number to customers. Please provide this contact to only media associates.)

## Customer Handling

A Q&A is attached to assist you in responding to any dealer questions or customer concerns. If the customer has any further questions they are requested to contact the Lexus Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-255-3987 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm PST, or Saturday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm PST.

Please review this notification with your staff to familiarize them with the proper step-by-step procedures required to implement this Safety Recall.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Attachments** 



#### Safety Recall ELG - For Areas of High Absolute Humidity

Certain 2002 - 2007 Model Year SC 430 Vehicles Front Passenger Airbag Inflator Module

This Safety Recall applies to owners of vehicles originally sold or currently/previously registered in areas of High Absolute Humidity, encompassing the following: Coastal Areas around the Gulf of Mexico for Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana. In addition it will include Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii.

On May 13, 2015, Lexus expanded this voluntary Safety Recall to cover additional 2005-2007 Model Year SC 430, vehicles.

#### Q1: What is the condition?

A1: The subject vehicles are equipped with front passenger airbag assemblies. When located in areas with consistently high absolute humidity, the front passenger airbag inflator could be susceptible to rupture in a crash. An inflator rupture may result in metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants. The cause of the potential ruptured inflators and influence of high absolute humidity are under investigation.

#### Q1a: What is the Inflator?

A1a: The inflator is a device contained within the airbag assembly. It contains solid propellant wafers which is ignited are the event airbag deployment is necessary. When ignited, the wafers expand into an inert gas, inflating the airbag.

## Q1b: What is the cause of this condition?

A1b: The cause of the potential ruptured inflators and influence of high absolute humidity are under investigation.

#### Q1c: What is absolute humidity?

A1c: The measure of the water vapor content in the air is known as absolute humidity, and it is displayed in grams of water vapor per cubic meter of air. Warm, southern coastal climates consistently experience the highest concentrations of water vapor in the air, as warm ambient air can hold more water.

Note: relative humidity is simply a percentage value and is related to temperature; therefore, areas with high relative humidity may not consistently have high absolute humidity, or simply stated, as much water in the ambient air.

## Q1d: How is humidity related to the performance of the airbag inflator?

Ald: The specific relationship of humidity to the operation of the inflator and the cause of improper airbag inflator performance and rupture is still under investigation.

# Q2: What is Lexus going to do?

A2: Owners of vehicles covered by this Safety Recall began receiving notification by first class mail in late October, 2014.

Lexus will begin mailing to customers covered by the expansion of Safety Recall ELG beginning late May, 2015. Customers of 2007 Model Year SC 430 vehicles will receive an interim notification as remedy parts for these vehicles are not expected to be available until mid-Summer 2015.

Lexus dealers are requested to replace the front passenger airbag inflator module at **no charge** to the vehicle owner.

# Q3: Are there any warnings that this condition exists?

A3: No. There are no warnings that this condition exists. However, the condition does not cause the airbag to activate when it should not. Also, the front passenger airbag is designed to inflate only in certain moderate to severe crashes.

# Q4: What should you do?

A4: Lexus strongly recommends that you have this Safety Recall remedy performed immediately.

Please contact any authorized Lexus dealer to schedule an appointment. When taking your vehicle to the dealership for your service appointment it is recommended that only the driver occupy the vehicle. If you are uncomfortable driving the vehicle to the dealership, please contact your local authorized Lexus dealer who will arrange for vehicle pick up. Until the remedy is performed, the front passenger seat should NOT be occupied.

If you do not follow the instructions in the owner letter, you should not drive your vehicle.

# Q5: Are there concerns with other airbags in the vehicle?

A5: No, this condition only applies to the front passenger airbag inflator module. Other airbags in the vehicle are not affected by this condition.

# Q6: How is this Safety Recall related to other actions Lexus has taken regarding Takata Front Passenger Airbag Inflator modules?

A6: In April 2013 Lexus announced a nationwide Safety Recall to inspect and, as necessary, replace front passenger airbag inflator modules. In June 2014, the recall remedy was revised to replace all inflators regardless of inspection results. In cooperation with NHTSA, Lexus also launched a Limited Regional Recall for an expanded model year range for certain areas with high levels of humidity to study the correlation to high humidity. As part of these actions, Lexus recovered airbag inflators for further investigations by Takata. These investigations have found that some inflators from South Florida perform improperly during testing. The geographic concentration of inflators with abnormal performance in areas with consistently high absolute humidity warrants priority replacement in these areas. Therefore, Lexus has launched this superseding recall for these areas.

# Q7: Are all vehicles involved in the previous Takata Front Passenger Inflator Module Recall Actions covered by this Safety Recall?

A7: No, this Safety Recall applies to owners of vehicles originally sold in, or currently/previously registered in, areas of High Absolute Humidity, encompassing the following: Coastal Areas around the Gulf of Mexico for Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana. In addition it will include Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Hawaii.

# Q8: Which and how many vehicles are covered by this Safety Recall?

A8: There are approximately 20,000 Lexus SC 430 vehicles covered by this Safety Recall. Many of the vehicles covered by this superseding Safety Recall were previously part of Safety Recall DSC or Limited Regional Safety Recall ELC.

Model	Model Year	Appx. UIO	Production Range
SC 430	2002 - 2007	20,000	Early January, 2001 through Early August, 2007

# Q8a: Are there any other Lexus/Toyota/Scion vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the U.S.?

A8a: Yes. There are approximately 625,000 certain 2003 - 2007 MY Corolla, Corolla Matrix, 2003 - 2006 MY Tundra and certain 2002 - 2007 MY Sequoia vehicles covered by this Safety Recall in the US.

# Q9: How does Lexus obtain my mailing information?

A9: Lexus 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.

# Q10: Do I need my owner letter to have the remedy performed?

A10: You do not need an owner letter to have this recall completed; however, to assist the dealer in confirming vehicle eligibility, we request that you present this notice at the time of your service appointment.

# Q11: What if I previously paid for repairs to my vehicle for this condition?

A11: Reimbursement consideration instruction will be provided in the remedy owner letter.

# Q12: What if I have additional questions or concerns?

A12: If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Lexus Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-255-3987 Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, or Saturday 7:00 am through 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

# Certain 2002-2007 Model Year SC 430 Vehicles Front Passenger Airbag Inflator Module SAFETY

RECALL NOTICE
This notice applies to your vehicle [VIN]

**URGENT SAFETY RECALL** 

This is an important Safety Recall. The remedy will be performed at **NO CHARGE** to you.

[VIN]

Dear Lexus Owner:

Lexus strongly recommends that you have this Safety Recall remedy performed immediately. If you do not follow the instructions in this letter, you should not drive your vehicle.

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Lexus has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2002-2007 Model Year SC 430 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 are equipped with front passenger airbag assemblies. When located in areas with consistently high absolute humidity, the front passenger airbag inflator could be susceptible to rupture in a crash. An inflator rupture may result in metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants. The cause of the potential ruptured inflators and influence of high absolute humidity are under investigation.

#### What will Lexus do?

Any authorized Lexus dealer will replace the front passenger inflator assembly at no charge to you.

#### What should you do?

#### This is an important Safety Recall

Lexus strongly recommends that you have this remedy performed immediately. Please contact any authorized Lexus dealer to schedule an appointment. When taking your vehicle to the dealership for your service appointment it is recommended that only the driver occupy the vehicle. If you are uncomfortable driving the vehicle to the dealership, please contact your local authorized Lexus dealer who will arrange for vehicle pick up. Until the remedy is performed, the front passenger seat should NOT be occupied.

The repair will take approximately 2 hours. However, depending on the dealer's work schedule, it may be necessary to make your vehicle available for a longer period of time.

You do not need an owner letter to have this recall completed; however, to assist the dealer in confirming vehicle eligibility, we request that you present this notice at the time of your service appointment.

If you would like to update your vehicle ownership or contact information, you may do so by registering at <a href="https://www.lexusdrivers.com">www.lexusdrivers.com</a> and updating your profile information. You will need your full 17-digit Vehicle Identification

Number (VIN) to input the new information.

#### What if you have other questions?

- Your local Lexus dealer will be more than happy to answer any of your questions and set up an appointment to perform the repair.
- You can find additional information and locate a Lexus dealer in your area by going online and visiting www.lexus.com.
- If you require further assistance, you may contact the Lexus Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-255-3987, Monday through Friday, 5:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Pacific Time.

If you believe that the dealer or Lexus 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 http://www.safercar.gov.

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:

Lexus, a Division of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Lexus Customer Assistance Center L201 19001 South Western Avenue Torrance, CA 90509

Please note that the dealer must complete the Safety Recall remedy before reimbursement consideration requests can be processed.

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.

Thank you for driving a Lexus.

Sincerely,

Lexus

A Division of Toyota Motor Sales, USA, INC.