

**Part 573 Safety Recall Report****16V-053****Manufacturer Name :** Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing**Submission Date :** JAN 27, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-053**Manufacturer Recall No. :** GLA**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Toyota Motor Engineering &amp; Manufact

Address : 19001 South Western Avenue

Torrance CA 90501

Company phone : 1-800-331-4331

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 5,070

Estimated percentage with defect : NR

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle : 2016-2016 Lexus RX350

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

- Descriptive Information : (1) Although the involved vehicles are within the above Production Period range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.
- (2) MY2016 Lexus RX350/450h vehicles produced in Japan utilize the same knee airbag assembly and same inflator produced in the U.S. However, the knee airbag is assembled in Japan, and all suspect inflators exported from the U.S. have been or will be quarantined in Japan and disposed of if found to be affected. In addition, MY2016 Prius vehicles are equipped with a different knee airbag assembly but utilize the same inflator. All suspect inflators and knee airbag assemblies have been or will be quarantined in Japan and disposed of if found to be affected.
- (3) Other Toyota and Lexus vehicles equipped with the knee airbag do not have the same inflator. Therefore, other Toyota and Lexus vehicles are not included in this recall.

Production Dates : NOV 16, 2015 - DEC 23, 2015

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2016-2016 Lexus RX450h

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

- Descriptive Information : (1) Although the involved vehicles are within the above Production Period range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S.

(2) MY2016 Lexus RX350/450h vehicles produced in Japan utilize the same knee airbag assembly and same inflator produced in the U.S. However, the knee airbag is assembled in Japan, and all suspect inflators exported from the U.S. have been or will be quarantined in Japan and disposed of if found to be affected. In addition, MY2016 Prius vehicles are equipped with a different knee airbag assembly but utilize the same inflator. All suspect inflators and knee airbag assemblies have been or will be quarantined in Japan and disposed of if found to be affected.

(3) Other Toyota and Lexus vehicles equipped with the knee airbag do not have the same inflator. Therefore, other Toyota and Lexus vehicles are not included in this recall.

Production Dates : NOV 16, 2015 - DEC 23, 2015

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

Not sequential VINs

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The subject vehicles are equipped with a driver's knee airbag module which contains a hybrid airbag inflator. The inflator utilizes a pyrotechnic charge and stored gas to inflate the airbag. During the manufacturing process at the supplier, the inflator may have been assembled with an improperly located weld seam. If this occurs, the weld could be insufficient or be damaged during the clinching process after the inflator is filled with gas, causing the stored gas to leak. Leakage of the stored gas could affect the performance of the knee airbag, increasing the risk of injury during a crash.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Leakage of the stored gas could affect the performance of the knee airbag, increasing the risk of injury during a crash.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

**Supplier Identification :**

**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Toyoda Gosei Missouri

Address : 2200 Platin Road

Perryville MISSOURI 63775

Country : United States

**Chronology :**

December 14, 2015 – late January 2016:

Toyota was notified by the knee airbag supplier that it found a leak of stored gas in an inflator originating at the weld which joins the diffuser to the inflator bottle. This was discovered at the end of the roll clinch process. A visual check confirmed that the diffuser weld of this inflator was off-center. A cut check conducted on this inflator confirmed an incomplete weld due to a lack of weld penetration of the diffuser body.

The supplier investigated the cause of the off-center diffuser weld and found that the weld fixture, which clamps the inflator bottle during the laser weld operation that joins the inflator bottle and diffuser, was damaged, causing sporadic weld asymmetry.

A review of production history found that equipment maintenance was performed on November 13, 2015 on the laser weld machine. During the maintenance operation, the weld laser impacted the weld fixture, resulting in damage to the fixture. This damage could affect the alignment of the inflator bottle with the diffuser during the weld operation, causing an off-center weld.

Further investigation revealed that the pressure applied to the diffuser weld during the roll clinching process, in which the micro gas generator (MGG) is attached on the opposite side of the inflator bottle from the diffuser, could contribute to damage of the off-center weld. If the weld becomes damaged, the gas inside the inflator could leak, causing the knee airbag to not deploy properly in the event of the frontal crash.

January 21, 2016

Based on the results of the above investigation, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign. As of January 20, 2016, no Toyota field reports or warranty claims have been received that relate to, or may relate to, this condition.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : All known owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Lexus dealer. The dealers will inspect and, if necessary, replace the knee airbag assembly with a new one at no cost. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Lexus New Vehicle Limited Warranty, all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under Lexus' Warranty.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Notifications to owners of Toyota/ Lexus models will occur by March 27, 2016. A copy of the draft owner notification letter(s) will be submitted as soon as available. Notifications to distributors/dealers were sent on January 27, 2016. Copies of dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JAN 27, 2016 - JAN 27, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 27, 2016 - MAR 27, 2016

\* NR - Not Reported