

January 27, 2016

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. ["TMMC"]  
1717 Dundas Street, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada N4S 0A4

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

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

Manufacturer of the Airbag Assembly, Instrument Panel Lower No.1 (Driver Knee Airbag)

Toyoda Gosei Missouri  
2200 Plattin Road, Perryville, MO 63775  
(573)547-104

Country of Origin: U.S.

2. Identification of Involved Vehicles and Affected Components:

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

Make/Car Line	Model Year	Manufacturer	Production Period
Lexus RX350/ 450h	2016	TMMC	November 16, 2015 through December 23, 2015

Part Number	Part Name	Component Description	Applicability
73900-0E080	Airbag Assy, Instrument Panel Lower No.1	SRS driver knee airbag	MY2016 Lexus RX350/450h

- (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.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

RX350 : 4,269  
RX450h : 801  
TOTAL : 5,070

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

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

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.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

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.

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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.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

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.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

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.

8. 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.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

Notifications to distributors/dealers were sent on January 27, 2016. Copies of dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.

10. Manufacturer's Campaign Number:

GLA