

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-734

Manufacturer Name : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing**Submission Date :** NOV 25, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-734**Manufacturer Recall No. :** See attached report**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
Address : 6565 Headquarters Drive
 Plano TX 75024
Company phone : 1-800-331-4331

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 161
Estimated percentage with defect : NR

Vehicle Information :**Vehicle 1 :** 2020-2020 Toyota RAV4 HV**Vehicle Type :****Body Style :****Power Train :** NR

Descriptive Information : Note: (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) Only vehicles in the above production range may have been equipped with steering columns that were manufactured with potentially damaged pins in the energy absorption bracket due to a specific production issue and are involved in this recall.

The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether the pins in the EA bracket in each steering column were damaged and may affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys depends on the press force used and the positioning of certain components during assembly of each affected steering column.

Production Dates : JUL 13, 2020 - AUG 11, 2020**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

End : NR Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2020-2020 Toyota RAV4

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Note: (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) Only vehicles in the above production range may have been equipped with steering columns that were manufactured with potentially damaged pins in the energy absorption bracket due to a specific production issue and are involved in this recall.

The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether the pins in the EA bracket in each steering column were damaged and may affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys depends on the press force used and the positioning of certain components during assembly of each affected steering column.

Production Dates : JUL 10, 2020 - AUG 31, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2020-2020 Toyota Avalon HV

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Note: (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) Only vehicles in the above production range may have been equipped with steering columns that were manufactured with potentially damaged pins in the energy absorption bracket due to a specific production issue and are involved in this recall.

The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether the pins in the EA bracket in each steering column were damaged and may affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys depends on the press force used and the positioning of certain components during assembly of each affected steering column.

Production Dates : JUL 24, 2020 - JUL 28, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2020-2021 Toyota Avalon

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Note: (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) Only vehicles in the above production range may have been equipped with steering columns that were manufactured with potentially damaged pins in the energy absorption bracket due to a specific production issue and are involved in this recall.

The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether the pins in the EA bracket in each steering column were damaged and may affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys depends on the press force used and the positioning of certain components during assembly of each affected steering column.

Production Dates : JUL 28, 2020 - AUG 20, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : The subject vehicles are equipped with steering columns that have an energy absorption bracket (EA bracket) which contains pins that are designed to breakaway to help reduce the severity of injury during certain collisions. There is a possibility that the pins were damaged during a specific step in the assembly process. If these pins are damaged, it may cause a reduction of the steering column breakaway force. This reduction in breakaway force can potentially affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys. This may cause the vehicles not to meet certain performance requirements of FMVSS No. 208, paragraphs S5.1, S15.1, S15.2, and S17, resulting in an increased risk of injury to the driver during a crash necessitating airbag deployment.

FMVSS 1 : 208 - Occupant crash protection

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If these pins are damaged, it may cause a reduction of the steering column breakaway force. This reduction in breakaway force can potentially affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys. This may cause the vehicles not to meet certain performance requirements of FMVSS No. 208, paragraphs S5.1, S15.1, S15.2, and S17, resulting in an increased risk of injury to the driver during a crash necessitating airbag deployment.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Column Assy, Steering M-Lock

Component Description : Steering Column

Component Part Number : 45250-07180

Component Name 2 : Column Assy, Steering E-Lock (Smart Key)

Component Description : Steering Column

Component Part Number : 45250-07190

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NSK Steering Systems

Address : 2962 Fort Hudson Rd.
Dyersburg TENNESSEE 38024

Country : United States

Chronology :

In Late-July 2020, a production team member at a Toyota facility identified an abnormality with the steering column during a functional check for the telescopic feature of the steering column. The assembly was recovered and sent to the supplier for investigation. The supplier investigated the recovered part and its production process and identified that the pins in the EA bracket for certain steering columns that were produced during a certain production period could be damaged because they may have been pressed into position with a press force that was higher than specified. Based on production records, Toyota began an activity to attempt to contain vehicles that were produced under the aforementioned conditions. However, not all suspect vehicles identified were contained. In addition, the supplier tested steering columns produced using different press forces and determined that the damage to the pins at a higher press force could result in a reduction of the steering column breakaway force. Based on this information, Toyota evaluated whether the reduction in breakaway force could affect the performance of the driver airbag when it deploys. On November 19, 2020 Toyota decided that the subject vehicles may have been sold with this condition and may not meet certain performance requirements of FMVSS No. 208, paragraphs S5.1, S15.1, S15.2, and S17.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : For all involved vehicles, Toyota dealers will replace the steering column with a new one, at no cost to customers. As the owner notification letters will be mailed out well within the active period of the Toyota New Vehicle Limited Warranty ("Warranty"), all involved vehicle owners for this recall would have been provided a repair at no cost under Toyota's 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 the affected vehicles will occur by January 24, 2021. A copy of the draft owner notification letter(s) will be submitted as soon as available. Notification to distributors/dealers will be sent by November 25, 2020. Copies of the dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 25, 2020 - NOV 25, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : JAN 18, 2021 - JAN 24, 2021

* NR - Not Reported