

**Toyota Motor Engineering &
Manufacturing North America, Inc.**

Vehicle Safety & Compliance
Liaison Office
Mail Code: S-104
19001 South Western Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 9:10 am, Apr 11, 2013

April 11, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Certain Toyota and Lexus Vehicle Front Passenger Air Bags
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, on behalf of Toyota Motor Corporation ["TMC"], we hereby submit the attached Defect Information Report concerning a voluntary safety recall of certain Toyota and Lexus vehicles to address an issue with the front passenger air bags.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (310) 468-8551.

Sincerely,



Vinnie Venugopal
General Manager
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing
North America, Inc.

Enclosures
Part 573, Defect Information Report

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Toyota Motor Corporation [“TMC”]
1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-city, Aichi-pref., 471-8571, Japan

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. [“TMMC”]
1055 Fountain Street North, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada N3H 5K2

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. [“TMMI”]
4000 Tulip Tree Dr., Princeton, IN 47670-4000

New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. [“NUMMI”]
45500 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94538-6368

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company

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

General Motors Corporation Global Headquarters [“GM”]
100 Renaissance Center Drive, PO. Box 100 Detroit, MI 48265

Manufacturer of Front Passenger Air Bag:

TK HOLDINGS INC.
2500 Takata Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: 248-373-2897

Country of Origin: U.S. and Mexico

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on information from the supplier and Toyota’s production records, we have determined the affected vehicle population as in the table below.

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufac- turer	VIN		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Lexus/ SC	TBD	TMC	TBD		TBD

Toyota/ Corolla	TBD	TMC	TBD	TBD
		TMMC	TBD	TBD
		NUMMI	TBD	TBD
Toyota/ Corolla Matrix	TBD	TMMC	TBD	TBD
Toyota/ Sequoia	TBD	TMMI	TBD	TBD
Toyota/ Tundra	TBD	TMMI	TBD	TBD
Pontiac/ Vibe	TBD	NUMMI	TBD	TBD

Note: Toyota received information from the supplier that approximately 170,000 front passenger air bags containing potentially affected inflators had been supplied to Toyota for use in the subject vehicles.

No other Toyota or Lexus vehicles use the affected air bag inflators.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Approximately 510,000 of the models noted above were approximately produced from 2001 to 2003. Toyota is currently investigating which of these vehicles could contain one of the approximately 170,000 affected inflators.

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

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

The subject vehicles are equipped with front passenger air bag inflators which could have been assembled with improperly manufactured propellant wafers. Improperly manufactured propellant wafers could cause the inflator to rupture and the front passenger air bag to deploy abnormally in a crash, increasing the risk of injury to the occupant.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

October 2011 – August 2012

Toyota received a field report from the Japan market indicating that a vehicle which had been involved in an accident sustained thermal damage to the instrument panel after the front passenger air bag deployed. An initial inspection of the air bag found that, upon deployment, the inflator had fractured near the gas ejection orifices located in the center portion of the inflator body.

Toyota began to recover in-use inflators from the Japan market and requested the supplier to investigate potential causes of the fracture. No abnormalities were found with 66 recovered inflators during supplier testing, and the fractured condition was not duplicated.

September 2012 – Early April 2013

Toyota received field reports concerning three vehicles from the US market indicating that the vehicles had fractured inflators. (Two of these reports also indicated that the front passenger air bags inadvertently deployed due to a condition which was previously reported to the agency.)

Toyota recovered additional in-use inflators from both the Japan and US markets and requested the supplier to evaluate 144 parts that were recovered.

In February 2013, the supplier informed Toyota that some of the propellant wafers found within the additionally recovered inflators were cracked, possibly due to lower material density. Low material density could increase the inner pressure of the inflator assembly and result in a rupture of the inflator body upon deployment. Toyota requested the supplier to investigate the manufacturing history of the suspect inflators to determine if a potential trend might exist.

On April 2, 2013, the supplier informed Toyota that certain front passenger air bag inflators manufactured within a specific production period could contain propellant wafers of insufficient quality caused by improper manufacturing. Some of these inflators could have been installed in certain Toyota vehicles.

April 5, 2013

Based on the above information from the supplier, Toyota decided to conduct a safety recall campaign.

For additional details, please see the Part 573 report provided by the supplier.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the affected Lexus and Toyota vehicles will be notified by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Lexus or Toyota dealer for inspection. The dealer will inspect the front passenger air bag, and, if it is equipped with an affected inflator, the dealer will replace the inflator with a newly manufactured one. Toyota will voluntarily provide a free remedy for this campaign.

General Motors will notify NHTSA separately of its repair and notification schedule.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies

The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have paid to have this condition remedied prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement pursuant to Toyota's General Reimbursement Plan.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies for General Motors Vehicles (Pontiac Vibe)

Pursuant to 577.11(e), General Motors will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs completed on or before ten days after GM mails owner letters, pursuant to the plan submitted on May 12, 2011.

8. Recall Schedule:

Toyota will provide a separate schedule of the owner notification mailing shortly. A copy of the draft owner notification will be submitted as soon as it is available.

General Motors will notify NHTSA separately of its owner mailing schedule and supply a copy of the owner letter at that time.

9. Distributor/Dealer Notification Schedule:

Toyota will provide a separate schedule of the dealer notification schedule shortly.

General Motors will notify NHTSA separately of its dealer mailing schedule and supply a copy of the dealer bulletin at that time.