



TOYOTA

TOYOTA TECHNICAL CENTER, USA, INC.

00V-154 (01)

June 2, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance – NSA-01
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RECEIVED
ON JUN -5 AM 8:51
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
OFFICE

Re: Toyota Avalon, Camry, and Camry Solara Rear axle shaft
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

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 a Defect Information Report concerning a safety recall of certain 2000 model year Toyota Avalon, Camry and Camry Solara vehicles to address a possible rear axle shaft problem.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Mr. Mitch Kato of my staff at (202) 775-1707.

Sincerely,

TOYOTA TECHNICAL CENTER U.S.A. INC.

Takashi Yoshie
General Manager

TY:mk
Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacture Name:

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Inc. ["TMMK"]
 1001 Cherry Blossom Way
 Georgetown, KY 40324

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Inc. ["TMMC"]
 1055 Fountain Street North
 Cambridge, ON N3H 5K2 Canada

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company:

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. ["TMS"]
 19001 South Western Avenue
 Torrance, CA 90509

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2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

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

Make/ Car Line	Model Year	Manufacturer	VIN*		Production Period
			VDS	VIS	
Toyota Avalon	2000	TMMK	BF28B	U066572 - U067235	March 28,2000 through April 3,2000
Toyota Camry			BF22K	U104986 - U105055 U948052 - U948093	March 28,2000 through March 29,2000
			BF28K	U104921 - U105049 U947955 - U948085	
			BG22K	U688996 - U689526 U987969 - U988472	
			BG28K	U689375 - U689470 U988319 - U988420	
Toyota Camry Solara	2000	TMMC	CF22P	C370031 - C372781	March 30,2000 through April 6,2000
			CF28P	C370118 - C372438	
			CG22P	C370160 - C372939	
			CG28P	C370357 - C372417	
			FF28P	C366098 - C370858	April 5,2000 through April 9,2000

Note : *Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S.

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3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

541

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Experience Malfunction:

Unknown

5. Description of Problem:

Due to improper heat treatment, it is possible that inadequate strength could occur in certain areas of the rear axle shafts. After extended use of the vehicle, in the worst case the rear axle shafts may fail or break.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

Late March 2000 through April 2000

During a sampling check of its heat treatment process, TMMK found improper heat treatment of rear axle shafts manufactured at the plant. TMMK immediately began an investigation to identify the cause of the problem and the affected vehicles.

As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the cause of the problem was inappropriate positioning of a heat treatment coil, which resulted from an improper repair of an equipment problem which occurred on March 28, 2000.

TMMK sent samples of the rear axle shafts to TMC and requested that it conduct a technical analysis to identify the extent of the problem. In addition, TMMK identified the affected VIN ranges as given in the table shown in item 2 above.

May 2000

After completion of its technical analysis, Toyota determined that during long term usage, the rear axle shafts of the affected vehicles may fail or break due to their improper heat treatment, and therefore decided that it would conduct a voluntary safety recall.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All known owners of the subject vehicles will be noticed by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Toyota dealer for inspection or repair of rear axle hub.

8. Recall Schedule:

Mailing of the owner notifications will commence on about the end of June and be completed around mid-July 2000.

Copies of the owner notification and dealer instructions will be submitted as soon as they are available.