



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 25, 2009

MR. CHRIS SANTUCCI  
ASSISTANT MANAGER  
TECHNICAL & REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.  
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW., SUITE 910 SOUTH  
WASHINGTON DC 20005

NVS-215dgl  
09V-444

Subject: REAR CROSS MEMBER ASSEMBLY CORROSION

Dear MR. SANTUCCI:

This letter serves to acknowledge Toyota Motor North America, Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
TOYOTA/TUNDRA/2000-2003

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-444

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 16, 2009

**Components:** STRUCTURE: FRAME AND MEMBERS: UNDERBODY SHIELDS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 110,000

**Summary:**

TOYOTA IS RECALLING MODEL YEAR 2000-2003 TUNDRA VEHICLES ORIGINALLY SOLD IN OR CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN THE FOLLOWING STATES: CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. EXCESSIVE CORROSION OF THE REAR CROSS MEMBER MAY CAUSE THE SEPARATION OF THE SPARE TIRE STOWED UNDER THE TRUCK BED WHICH WOULD PRESENT A ROAD HAZARD THAT COULD CAUSE A CRASH. ALSO, CORROSION OF THE REAR CROSS MEMBER COULD AFFECT THE REAR BRAKE LINES AND THE PROPORTIONING VALVE RESULTING IN DIMINISHED BRAKING CAPABILITY.

**Consequence:**

SEPARATION OF THE SPARE TIRE AND DIMINISHED BRAKE CAPACITY COULD INCREASE THE RISK OF A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

TOYOTA IS ASKING OWNERS OF THE AFFECTED VEHICLES TO REMOVE THE SPARE TIRE FROM UNDER THE VEHICLE UNTIL A REMEDY CAN BE OBTAINED. DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE REAR CROSS MEMBER AND RELATED COMPONENTS, INCLUDING THE BRAKE LINES, AND REPLACE THEM IF NECESSARY. IF THE CROSS MEMBER DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPLACED, IT WILL BE SPRAYED WITH A CORROSION PROTECTION COMPOUND. THESE SERVICES WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE, HOWEVER MULTIPLE VISITS TO THE DEALER MAY BE REQUIRED. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2009. OWNER MAY CONTACT TOYOTA AT 1-800-331-4331.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was the subject of a Preliminary Evaluation, PE09-049, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement