# Lexus ES 350 **All Weather Floor Mat** September 13, 2007

# **Agenda**

- Overview
- NHTSA Concerns
- Points of Interest
- Toyota Action Plan

#### **Overview**

## NHTSA Investigation

- PE opened March 29, upgraded to EA August 8
- EA Opening Resume
  - Unsecured floor mats observed in majority of complaints
  - 17 complaints
  - 5 vehicle crashes
    - 2 Injury Incidents, 1 reported as significant
- Upgraded from PE to EA so NHTSA could:
  - Further investigate this issue
  - Assess actions taken by Toyota

## **Overview**

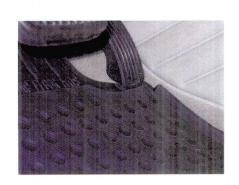
#### Toyota Response

- Lexus All Weather Floor Mat ONP
  - All ES 350 owners included
  - Mailing conducted April 24 May 11, 2007
  - 96,277 registered owners in the United States and territories
  - 21,500 Lexus AWM sold (PIO, DIO) as of March 2007 (Approximately 38,400 Lexus AWM sold (PIO, DIO, including dealer inventory) as of September 1, 2007)
  - Notice sent to Lexus Dealerships at time of owner mailing
- Enlargement of warning on floor mat
- Revised retail packaging
  - Hanging tag with Installation Caution, to be removed only by consumer
  - Installation Caution on header card

## NHTSA Concerns (EA Resume)

"ODI has observed that an unsecured Lexus accessory all weather floor mat can trap the throttle pedal in an open position resulting in significant unwanted acceleration."





#### **Points of Interest**

- What is the prevalent failure mode?
  - Double stacked AWM
  - AWM: Pedal trapped in ridge



Note: AWM cannot interfere with accelerator pedal if properly secured with the retention clips

#### **Points of Interest**

- Any floor mat can interfere with the accelerator pedal in any vehicle
  - Transport Canada issued a general advisory in March 2007 (click here)



- If you have installed aftermarket floor mats in your vehicle, make certain they cannot move while driving.
- If you are going to install rubber mats in the winter months, when doing so, be sure that you remove the originally equipped factory floor mats.
- Use only one set of mats and make certain that the mats do not interfere with the gas or brake pedal before driving the vehicle.
- If the vehicle is equipped with a floor mat retaining pin or clip, make certain that the mat is installed as per the vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

#### **Effectiveness of Owner Notification**

- Mailing conducted April 24 May 11
- At the time of the August 2007 upgrade, of the 17 VOQ's, none reported incident dates later than May 2007
- This week, NHTSA informed Toyota of 4 additional VOQ's
  - 3 reported incident dates after July 3, 2007
  - 1 reported an incident date in December 2006
  - Currently under evaluation

## Other Vehicles - Prius





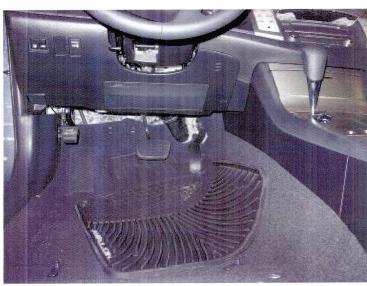
#### **Prius**

- Leading edge of mat interferes with steering column cover
- Footrest obstructs forward movement of AWM
- Cannot experience same condition as ES350



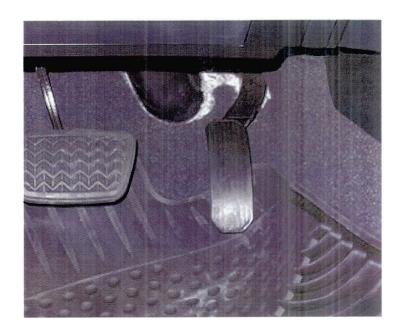
### Other Vehicles - Avalon





#### <u>Avalon</u>

- Different ridge on AWM
- Footwell impedes forward movement of AWM
- Tunnel design reduces the possibility of occurrence



#### Other Vehicles - IS250/350

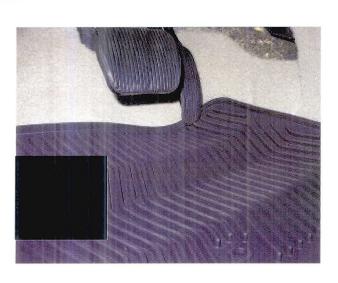


#### IS250/350

- Footrest obstructs forward movement of AWM
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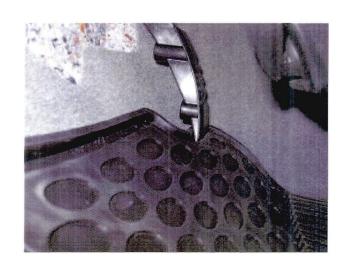


#### Other Manufacturer Vehicles



- Same AWM supplier
- OE Accessory
- Related VOQ's in NHTSA Database





# **Toyota Action Plan**

Discussion