



George Morino/TMS/Toyota

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bcc

Subject CONFIDENTIAL and URGENT - ES 350 Issue

Today, Wednesday (03/28/07), the Toyota Motor America, D.C. Office (TMA-DC) was informed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that they will be opening a Defect Investigation into the 2007 model year ES 350 for unintended throttle application (unintended acceleration), as early as tomorrow (03/29/07). As you know, NHTSA has been looking at this issue closely, and have now come to the conclusion that they believe the Lexus All Weather Floor Mat may be causing the accelerator pedal to stick in the full or partially depressed position. NHTSA has received a total of 10 reports alleging unintended acceleration, 4 of which reported that a crash had occurred.

NHTSA does not know if dealers or customers are the cause of the situation, but nonetheless, believes it is an issue to investigate further, and will announce the opening of the Preliminary Evaluation (PE) Defect Investigation. TMA-DC will forward the Preliminary Evaluation Letter to TMC who will in turn assign the question responses to the appropriate party/affiliate.

**Please note:**

*Make sure all documents regarding this issue, no matter how remote, are retained as required by Regulation (which requires retention for five years); the penalty for with holding, falsifying, purposefully destroying and/or mis-leading the government is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties including jail time.*

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