CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT

# STATEMENT AND Q&A REGARDING NHTSA DEFECT PETITION FOR ALLEGED TACOMA ENGINE SURGE

(Information as of 01-31-08 V1)

**Statement:**
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") has received a private citizen petition on 2006 and 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma vehicles to open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE) Investigation. The petitioner alleges an engine speed increase without accelerator application. Based upon this request, NHTSA has opened a Defect Petition to review the petitioner's claim and determine whether the claim has merit or not. This is not a Preliminary Evaluation (PE) Investigation or a recall.

**Q1: When did NHTSA receive the petition?**
A1: NHTSA received the private citizen petition on January 18, 2008.

**Q2: When did NHTSA begin its Defect Petition process?**
A2: NHTSA opened the Defect Petition on January 31, 2008. As of January 31, 2008, Toyota has not received the ODI Resume from NHTSA.

**Q3: What vehicles are involved in the Defect Petition?**
A3: The private citizen submitted the petition on 2006 and 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma vehicles.

**Q4: How many vehicles are involved in the NHTSA Defect Petition Investigation?**
A4: There are approximately **XXX** 2006 and **XXX** 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States.

**Q5: What prompted NHTSA to open the Defect Petition?**
A5: The purpose of the Defect Petition is merely to review the petitioner's claim and determine whether the claim has merit or not.

**Q6: What seems to be the source of the problem?**
A6: It is premature to comment on the cause if any, Toyota has not received any further information from NHTSA at this time.

**Q7: Is this complaint the only one that you are aware of that has experienced this problem?**
A7: It is premature to comment. Toyota has not received any further information from NHTSA at this time.

**Q8: Is this a recall?**
A8: No. This is not a recall. The purpose of the Defect Petition is merely to review the petitioner's claim and determine whether the claim has merit or not.

**Q9: Didn't NHTSA already conduct an investigation on the Toyota Tacoma Accelerator Control System?**
A9: No, NHTSA received consumer complaint allegations regarding the Accelerator Control System in certain 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma vehicles. NHTSA did not open a formal investigation to look into these allegations. However, NHTSA did conduct a confirmation test on the 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma for Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (FMVSS) 124 Accelerator Control Systems. Toyota fully cooperated with the agency to support their testing efforts.

> **Q9A: How many Toyota Tacoma Accelerator Control System complaints has NHTSA received?**
> A9A: As this was not a NHTSA investigation, they have not formally advised us of the number of complaints they have received.

**Q9B: What were the results of the FMVSS 124 Compliance tests conducted by NHTSA?**
A9B: ***TMC please confirm this is accurate answer!!*** NHTSA has not formally advised Toyota that the Tacoma vehicle tested passed the FMVSS 124 Compliance tests. However, the Toyota Tacoma meets the FMVSS 124 requirements.

**Q10: Didn't Toyota just recall Camry and Lexus ES 350 vehicles for an Accelerator Control System problem?**
A10: The Toyota Camry and Lexus ES 350 All Weather Floor Mat Equipment recall involved the Toyota Camry and Lexus ES 350 All Weather Floor Mats designed specifically for the driver's seating position in certain 2007 and early 2008 model year vehicles. In this case, if the optional Toyota Camry or Lexus ES 350 All Weather Floor Mat (either by itself or if it is placed on top of the existing carpeted floor mat) is not secured by the retaining hooks and the mat moves forward, it may interfere with the accelerator pedal returning to the idle position. If the mat is properly secured, it will not interfere with the accelerator pedal.

**Q11: Is the Toyota Tacoma equipped with the All Weather Floor Mat of a similar design?**
A11: The Toyota Tacoma All Weather Floor Mat is an optional accessory. Although the overall look of the Toyota Tacoma All Weather Floor Mat may look similar to the Lexus ES 350 and Toyota Camry All Weather Floor Mats, differences in the shape, topographical features, and relation to vehicle interior components make them quite different.

**Q12: Have you had any complaints other than this one Defect Petition, and have you had any other lawsuits related to Toyota Tacoma's throttle control system issue?**
A12: This one complaint was actually received by NHTSA. Toyota will cooperate fully with the agency to study this complaint. Our investigation will tell us if there are more vehicles involved.

**Q13: What if customers have questions or safety concerns regarding this issue, should they go to their dealer?**
A13: We remain confident in the safety of these vehicles, but if customers have any concerns at all they should feel free to contact our Toyota customer Experience Center.

Toyota Customer Experience Center - 1.800.331.4331