



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 25, 2013

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Jackson:

Thank you for your letter asking whether auto dealers currently have access to up-to-date, VIN-specific information regarding the safety recall status of used cars. Administrator Strickland asked me to respond.

An auto dealer (or any vehicle owner) today may easily access up-to-date, VIN-specific information regarding the safety recall status of a used car. Such information may be accessed through the manufacturer's publicly accessible VIN-look-up website, through a commercial VIN-look-up service for registered owners, or through the manufacturer's toll-free number.

By entering a unique VIN on the vehicle manufacturer's publicly accessible VIN-look-up website, an auto dealer can access VIN-specific recall information from such manufacturers as General Motors, Toyota, Ford, Honda, Chrysler, Hyundai/Kia, Volkswagen, Nissan, Mercedes-Benz, Suzuki, Mitsubishi, Volvo, and Porsche. Mazda, Subaru, and Harley-Davidson also provide VIN-specific recall information on their publicly accessible websites, but only after the vehicle owner enters contact information and creates a website account. An auto dealer also can access the website of a VIN-look-up service, such as CARFAX, to find VIN-specific recall information. Finally, all light vehicle manufacturers offer VIN-specific recall information through their toll-free, customer service telephone numbers.

I hope this information is helpful. If you need any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O. Kevin Vincent".

O. Kevin Vincent  
Chief Counsel