



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA09-005  
 Prompted By: PE08-067  
 Date Opened: 04/01/2009  
 Principal Investigator: Michael Lee  
 Subject: Side Air Bag Non-Deployment

Manufacturer: Nissan North America, Inc.  
 Products: 2003-2005 Infiniti Q45 and 2003-2004 Infiniti M45  
 Population: 13,836

Problem Description: A faulty connector in the side air bag system can cause the air bag warning lamp to illuminate and the side air bag to become deactivated.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	74	74
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other:	0	4853	4853

Description of Other: Warranty claims.

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Michael Lee *MSL*

Date: 04/01/2009

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 04/01/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/01/2009

### Summary:

The subject vehicles are equipped with seat-mounted, side torso air bags for the driver and front passenger. This investigation has revealed that faulty side air bag module connectors located under the front seats can cause an interruption in the electrical current that will drop the input voltage below the specified range. As a result, the air bag warning lamp illuminates and the affected side air bag is deactivated.

The rates of complaints, field reports and warranty claims related to the subject issue are very high. For example, Nissan submitted 4,853 warranty claims on 3,551 distinct subject vehicles out of 13,836 total subject vehicles. Also, analyses of warranty claims indicate an increasing failure trend over time.

An Engineering Analysis has been opened to further study this issue.