



NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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June 20, 2006

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

06V-223
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith

We are transmitting the enclosed Preliminary Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. This matter is still under investigation and we will advise you when it is completed. At the conclusion of the investigation, we will advise the agency of the final range of potentially affected vehicles, which may not include all of those in the date ranges noted below or the models specified. At that time we will also provide the required information concerning dealer and owner notification under Part 577 and the corrective action. Nissan dealers have been notified to stop selling potentially affected vehicles and owners have also been notified as indicated in the attached report.

Very truly,

Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

INVESTIGATION
OFFICE OF DEFECTS

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PRELIMINARY DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Some Nissan Altima vehicles equipped with a 2.5L four-cylinder engine and manufactured at the Smyrna Tennessee and Canton Mississippi plants between January and May 2006 and Nissan Sentra vehicles equipped with a 2.5L four-cylinder engine and manufactured at the Nissan Mexicana plant between February and May 2006 may exhibit excessive oil consumption and are under investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, we will advise the agency of the final range of potentially affected vehicles, which may not include all of those in the date ranges noted above or the models specified.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 85,000 are under investigation

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

To be determined

5. Description of the Defect:

Some vehicles manufactured during the period under investigation may experience excessive engine oil consumption as a result of improper performance of the piston rings. If the oil is not maintained at least at the minimum level, engine damage can occur and in extreme cases may result in an engine fire.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

April 7, 2006 – After receiving several reports of excessive engine oil consumption and engine fires in Altima models equipped with a 2.5L four-cylinder engine, Nissan initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the excessive oil consumption, any relationship to engine fires, and the scope of potentially affected vehicles.

June 2, 2006 – Nissan notified all dealers to stop sale of all of the potentially affected vehicles while its investigation continues.

June 9, 2006 – Nissan sent a letter to all owners of potentially affected vehicles advising them of the possibility of excessive oil consumption and the importance of maintaining the oil at a proper level to avoid the possibility of engine damage and risk of fire.

June 13, 2006 – Although the investigation has not been completed, Nissan determined that a safety related defect may exist in some of the vehicles under investigation.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

To be determined

8. Copy of Notices:

Copies of all notices will be provided to NHTSA as they become available.