

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Headquarters
One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37068

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068-5001

Telephone: 615.725.1000

11V592
(4 Pages)

December 19, 2011

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Room W48-302
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam:

We are transmitting the enclosed Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. A voluntary recall campaign will be initiated and your office provided with the notices. Nissan plans to notify dealers by December 21, 2011 and begin owner notification on January 19, 2012. We will not include information in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as these vehicles are under warranty.

Very truly,



John Gibbons
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

2011 Model Year Infiniti FX vehicles manufactured from June 21, 2011 to August 1, 2011; and 2012 Model Year Infiniti M vehicles manufactured from June 22, 2011 to July 30, 2011 at Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. in Japan

2011 and 2012 Model Year Nissan Frontier vehicles manufactured from June 16, 2011 to September 19, 2011; 2011 and 2012 Model Year Nissan Xterra vehicles manufactured from June 16, 2011 to October 3, 2011; 2011 and 2012 Model Year Nissan Pathfinder vehicles manufactured from June 16, 2011 to September 21, 2011; and 2012 Model Year Nissan NV vehicles manufactured from June 11, 2011 to September 21, 2011 at Nissan North America, Inc. in the United States.

Vehicles manufactured before and after these dates and the other Nissan and Infiniti vehicles are not affected because they do not use the subject connector bolt of the engine oil cooler as discussed below.

The connector bolt supplier is:

MAHLE Filter Systems Japan Corporation
3-1-2 Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0014, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3989-8464
Fax: +81-3-3989-8470

Country of origin:

Japan

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Total; Approximately 14,718.

Infiniti FX vehicles; Approximately 30.

Infiniti M vehicles; Approximately 97.

Nissan Frontier vehicles; Approximately 6,820.

Nissan Xterra vehicles; Approximately 3,194.

Nissan Pathfinder vehicles; Approximately 3,023.

Nissan NV vehicles; Approximately 1,554.

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

Due to a supplier issue that has since been corrected, some of the bolts that connect the engine oil cooler and the engine oil filter to the engine may have been manufactured to below specification strength. On vehicles equipped with the affected bolts, the bolt may break at the oil filter attachment point. If the connector bolt breaks, it can cause an engine oil leak. If there is an engine oil leak, the engine oil warning lamp will illuminate and the engine may become noisy. If the driver ignores this condition and the vehicle continues to be driven, the engine could seize.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

August 18, 2011 – Nissan received several reports of engine cooler connector bolts breaking where the oil filter attaches to the engine oil cooler. Nissan initiated an investigation.

August 20, 2011 - December 12, 2011 - The incident parts were collected and analyzed. It was determined that a difference in material structure existed between the incident parts and the correct specification ones. Some re-creation tests were conducted to determine the effect of the material structure difference on the deterioration of the bolt strength. The manufacturing history of the supplier was investigated to research the cause of the material structure difference. As a result, it was found that the forming process of the bolt at the supplier had been changed making the forming process out of specification.

Nissan further investigated to determine the scope and the potential consequences of this issue. It was found that the possibility of engine seizure existed, although the driver is alerted to this incident by the illumination of the engine oil indicator and increased noise from the engine.

December 12, 2011 - Nissan determined that a safety related defect exists and that a recall campaign will be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan or Infiniti dealer. The connector bolt will be replaced with a counter-measured one.

8. Copy of Notices:

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