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By Recall Management Division at 1:23 pm, Mar 11, 2013

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office
P.O. Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068-5001
Telephone: 615.725.1000

February 28, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
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 safety recall campaign will be initiated and your office provided with the notices. Nissan plans to notify dealers on February 28, 2013 and begin owner notification on March 18, 2013. 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 covered under warranty.



Donald Neff
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Mexicana, S.A, De C.V.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

2013 Model Year Nissan Sentra vehicles manufactured from September 11, 2012 to October 4, 2012 at the Aguascalientes, Mexico plant. Vehicles manufactured before and after these dates are not affected because the supplier's production issue occurred over a limited period of time.

No other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles are affected because the production line used to assemble the fuel tank is unique to this model.

The fuel tank supplier is:

Kautex Textron de México
Km 117 Autopista México Puebla Parque Ind. FINSA Nave 8
Puebla, PUE 72710, Mexico

Tel: 52 (222) 372 05 00

Country of origin:

Mexico

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 392

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

Not more than 6%

5. Description of the Defect:

Due to a manufacturing process variation at the fuel tank supplier that has since been corrected, certain Sentra vehicles may contain fuel tank assemblies that were not properly sealed during manufacture. As a result

of this manufacturing issue, a small amount of gasoline may leak from the fuel tank when it is full.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

November 1, 2012 - Nissan received a warranty claim from a dealer conducting a pre-delivery inspection. The dealer noticed moisture coming from a fuel tank after filling the tank. Nissan initiated an investigation into this report.

November 2012 - December 2012 - Nissan contacted the fuel tank supplier, Kautex, to inform it of the reported issue. Analysis of the returned fuel tank revealed that the tank was not properly sealed which allowed small amounts of fuel leakage.

Nissan also began active field monitoring of this issue. On November 27, 2012, Nissan received a customer warranty claim relating to a fuel tank leak after filling the tank. At this time, Nissan had not received any additional reports of similar fuel tank issues. Concurrently, Kautex initiated an investigation to determine root cause.

December 2012 – January 2013 - Nissan commenced a dealer inspection on December 18, 2012. Kautex continued to investigate to determine the root cause and scope of the issue. As part of Kautex's investigation, 100% inspection of each fuel tank was initiated in production to ensure each tank was properly sealed and various process parameters were checked.

January 2013 – February 2013 – Nissan completed the dealer inspection activity. In addition, Nissan collected twenty fuel tanks for further inspection. Out of the twenty fuel tanks collected, Nissan found that twelve fuel tanks had seams that were not properly sealed. Out of the twelve fuel tanks that were improperly sealed, two of them had fuel leakage during testing.

Kautex confirmed the root cause of the leak. During the molding process, a failed sensor delayed the closure of the mold. This allowed oil contamination which resulted in the fuel tank seam not being fully sealed. The failed sensor had been repaired on September 9, 2012. Once this information was received from the supplier, Nissan conducted materials analysis on the fuel tanks which enabled it to determine the potentially affected vehicle population.

February 21, 2013 - Nissan determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a safety recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer. The fuel tank will be inspected and, if necessary, replaced at no charge to the customer for parts or labor.

8. Copy of Notices:

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