

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 5:59 am, Feb 12, 2014

14V-052
(4 pages)

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

NISSAN

February 11, 2014

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 12, 2014 and will notify all affected owners by early March 2014.

We will not include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as the subject vehicles are under warranty.

Very truly,


Donald Neff
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

2012-2014 Model Year Nissan Frontier vehicles manufactured from November 28, 2012 to December 17, 2013.

No other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles are affected because the circuit breaker orientation is unique to this vehicle.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 13,535 Frontier vehicles

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

A circuit breaker was installed in the incorrect orientation by an operator during assembly at the Canton, MS plant. This caused the main wire harness connected to the circuit breaker to face outward, potentially contacting a metal bolt located on the A-pillar.

If the bolt wears through the wire harness covering, it may result in a short circuit condition. The short circuit may cause an overheat condition which could result in thermal damage. If this occurs, the power seat and sunroof functions (if equipped) may become inoperable. In some cases, if the vehicle is turned off, the battery may discharge. Nissan is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

December 9, 2013 – Nissan received a report about an incident in Mexico during which a customer observed smoke in the cabin (near the driver's side kick panel). Upon inspection, the Nissan technician confirmed that the kick panel contained thermal damage and that the circuit breaker and wiring harness had also been damaged.

December 19, 2013 – Nissan implemented a plant hold on all Frontier vehicles that received the subject circuit breaker in order to investigate the issue.

January 2014 to February 2014 – Nissan performed a thorough investigation of all production vehicles that received the circuit breaker. The investigation revealed that the circuit breaker had been installed in the improper orientation on some of the vehicles that were inspected. While these vehicles contained an improperly positioned circuit breaker, the investigation revealed no damage to the main harness.

Concurrently, Nissan conducted an engineering evaluation to assess the potential consequence of the issue. The assessment revealed that, if the wire harness covering was damaged and the bare wires contacted a metal bolt on the nearby A-pillar, a short circuit may occur which could result in an overheat condition.

February 4, 2014 – Nissan determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a recall campaign would be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified by early March 2014 to take their vehicles to a Nissan dealer for inspection. The dealer will inspect the circuit breaker orientation. If the circuit breaker orientation is correct, no further repair will be required.

If the circuit breaker orientation is incorrect, the dealer will remove the circuit breaker and inspect for damage to harness wiring:

- a) If the wire is not damaged, the dealer will re-install the circuit breaker with the correct orientation
- b) If the wire cover is damaged, the dealer will repair the main harness assembly using vinyl tape
- c) If the wire is damaged, the dealer will replace or repair the main harness assembly

The above inspection and repairs will be performed for owners of all potentially affected vehicles at no charge for parts or labor.

8. Copy of Notices:

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