

# NISSAN

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**NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

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April 16, 2015

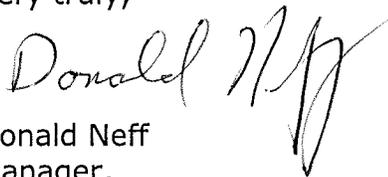
Mr. Frank Borris  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
Room W48-302  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Borris:

We are transmitting the enclosed amended Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. This Defect Information Report expands Recall 14V-701 to include additional vehicles equipped with SPI inflators that currently are or previously were registered in Florida and adjacent counties in Southern Georgia; Hawaii; Guam; Puerto Rico; Saipan; American Samoa; U.S. Virgin Islands; and coastal areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Nissan will notify vehicle owners via FedEx, or first class mail for PO Box addresses. Owner notification will begin as soon as affected owners are identified and will be completed within 60 days. Your office will be provided with a copy of the Part 577 owner notification, which is the same as the customer notification letter previously approved for Recall 14V-701. Nissan will also utilize Impartial Services Group for additional customer outreach. We will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy.

Very truly,



Donald Neff  
Manager,  
Technical Compliance

Encl.

## **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

1. **Manufacturer:**

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

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

The vehicle models included in this regional recall expansion are equipped with SPI inflators. The recalled vehicles are those that currently are or previously were registered in High Absolute Humidity (HAH) Regions (Florida and adjacent counties in Southern Georgia; Puerto Rico; Hawaii; the U. S. Virgin Islands; Guam; Saipan; American Samoa; and the coastal areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas). Specifically, the recall population includes additional vehicles with a later manufacturing range than those already subject to Recall 14V-701 and extends through the end of production of the subject vehicles equipped with SPI inflators.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Manufacturing Range</b>
MY2006 Nissan Sentra	January 2, 2006 to August 26, 2006 (end of production)

The name and address of the front passenger air bag inflator supplier is:

TK HOLDINGS INC.  
2500 Takata Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
Phone: 248-373-8040  
Fax: 248-373-2897

3. **Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Approximately 45,000 vehicles are affected.

Approximately 12,000 subject vehicles represent the recall manufacturing range expansion described in greater detail in Section 6 below. Nissan will provide the total number of affected vehicles upon obtaining the latest vehicle registration information from R.L. Polk.

Separately, through additional data confirmation of factory production records, Nissan recently determined that an additional 33,293 vehicles should be included in the 14V-701. As discussed with the agency, Nissan has already obtained the latest vehicle registration information from R.L. Polk with respect to this group of vehicles, and has added the subject vehicles to the VIN lookup tool. Further, Nissan has promptly begun notifying this group of customers by FedEx utilizing a Part 577 owner notification letter previously approved for 14V-701.

Nissan believes the issue associated with the second group of vehicles is the result of an isolated archiving and data retrieval error, which was swiftly addressed upon identification. Nissan is also in the process of conducting a review of other recalls not related to this issue but involving older vehicles to help confirm the recall populations are complete. Your office will be provided with an update on the review.

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

According to testing conducted by Takata and presented to Nissan on April 7, 2015, 10 improper deployments were observed out of 525 SPI inflators from Nissan vehicles recovered from within Florida, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii as part of the recall. Based on laboratory testing, this represents a rate of 1.9%.

#### 5. Description of the Defect:

The subject vehicles that are located in the HAH Region, such as in South Florida and along the Gulf Coast, are equipped with a specific type of front passenger air bag inflator (SPI inflator). This inflator could be susceptible to moisture intrusion, possibly resulting in abnormal passenger air bag deployment in the event of a crash, increasing the risk of injury to the occupant.

The root cause of the issue remains under investigation as described in Section 6 below. However, based on information available to date, it appears that long-term (decade-scale) exposure to persistent high absolute humidity is a clear factor affecting the subject inflators.

#### 6. Chronology of Principal Events:

July 2014 to October 2014 – In cooperation with the investigation undertaken by NHTSA and Takata Corporation, Nissan recovered and replaced air bag inflators (14V-340) from certain areas of consistently high absolute humidity. Nissan provided these air bag inflators to Takata for evaluation. Takata evaluated the air bag inflators to determine if they exhibited the defect.

October 22, 2014 - Takata provided the results of their air bag inflator testing to Nissan.

October 23, 2014 – Based on the test results supplied by Takata, Nissan decided to conduct a safety recall campaign. More specifically, the vehicles included in this recall are those currently or previously registered in the HAH Region. The manufacturing date range for the 14V-701 campaign was based on the inflator manufacture date ranges provided by Takata.

November 2014 to March 2015 – Nissan continued to monitor field data and attend regular meetings with NHTSA and Takata. Separately, Nissan conducted inflator testing and, along with other OEMs, hired a third party to conduct independent testing and root cause analysis of the Takata airbag inflator issues. These efforts are ongoing.

March 2, 2015 - Takata convened a meeting in Michigan with OEM engineers to update them on testing and their root cause of the airbag inflator failures. Takata was able to confirm that long-term (decade-scale) exposure to persistent high absolute humidity is a clear factor affecting the subject inflators.

March 27, 2015 – Nissan was notified of an incident that occurred on March 21, 2015 involving a Nissan Sentra vehicle registered within the HAH region that was equipped with an SPI inflator that was manufactured in May 2006, which is outside the scope of the current regional recall 14V-701. Nissan swiftly initiated efforts to inspect the vehicle.

April 6, 2015 – As a part of continuous, collaborative consultation with NHTSA ODI on Takata inflator issues, Nissan discussed the latest information presented by Takata to NHTSA concerning SPI inflators.

April 7, 2015 – Takata presented the latest information on their ongoing testing to Nissan. The presentation showed that Takata tested a total of 525 SPI inflators from Nissan vehicles recovered from within Florida, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. 10 improper deployments were observed.

April 9, 2015 – Nissan inspected the vehicle involved in the March 21, 2015 incident and visually confirmed apparent abnormal inflator deployment.

April 9, 2015 – Nissan decided to expand the regional recall campaign to include all remaining vehicles equipped with SPI inflators that are currently or previously were registered in: Florida and adjacent counties in Southern Georgia; Puerto Rico; Hawaii; the U. S. Virgin Islands; Guam; Saipan; American Samoa; and the coastal areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

#### 7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan will notify vehicle owners via FedEx, or first class mail for PO Box addresses. Owner notification will begin as soon as affected owners are identified and will be completed within 60 days. Nissan will also utilize Impartial Services Group for additional customer outreach. The front passenger air bag inflator will be replaced with a new one at no cost to owners for parts or labor. Nissan anticipates having enough replacement parts on hand and will address any potential short-term service issues with individual customers on case-by-case basis.

8. Copy of Notices:

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