

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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

Telephone: 615.725.1000

February 26, 2016

Mr. Frank S. Borris II
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-210)
Room W48-302
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Borris:

We are transmitting the enclosed Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. The vehicles subject to this notice are already part of an ongoing Service Campaign (Nissan Campaign ID #P5327; TSB #NTB15-089). Nissan is reclassifying this Service Campaign as a Safety Recall.

Owners have previously been notified. However, those owners who have not yet elected to remedy their vehicles will receive a Part 577 recall letter within the next 60 days. Your office will be provided with a copy of the letter for approval. Affected vehicles remaining in dealer inventory will be placed on sales hold and remedied prior to retail sale. Nissan plans to notify dealers on February 29, 2016.

Very truly,



Derek Latta
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain MY 2013-2015 Nissan LEAF vehicles manufactured at the Smyrna, TN plant from November 19, 2012 (start of production) to July 31, 2015. Nissan LEAF vehicles manufactured after this date are unaffected due to a software change.

No other Nissan or Infiniti models are affected because the braking system is specific to the Nissan LEAF.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 46,859 vehicles are affected.

We note that Nissan has already remedied approximately 21,708 additional vehicles as part of the Service Campaign that is being superseded by this notice. Accordingly, the remedied vehicles are excluded from the above total.

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

100%

5. Description of the Defect:

When the vehicle is parked in extremely cold temperature conditions, the relay inside the electronic brake booster may freeze. If this occurs, when the vehicle is first started, a brake warning lamp will illuminate to immediately alert the operator of the issue. The brake system continues to function in a special "assist mode," but may require more pedal effort which may increase the braking distance and increase the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

October 2015 – Nissan launched a voluntary service campaign in the U.S. and Canada on MY 2013-2015 LEAF vehicles to address an issue where vehicles would go into “VDC assist” mode upon vehicle start-up in extremely cold weather conditions.

Nissan apprised Transport Canada of its decision to conduct a Service Campaign and explained why Nissan did not believe the issue was a safety defect. More specifically, Nissan explained the subject issue and why it believed a Service Campaign was appropriate and described the planned remedy and implementation schedule. Separately, Nissan also apprised NHTSA of the Service Campaign it initiated via a phone call.

February 12, 2016 – Nissan Canada received a request from Transport Canada to reclassify the ongoing Service Campaign (P5327) to a Safety Recall campaign and re-mail to those limited customers who have not received the remedy yet.

In response to Transport Canada on February 22, Nissan explained that it had rapidly launched the Service Campaign and was pleased with the number of vehicles remedied to date. It also reiterated that Nissan was confident in its technical assessment that the issue is not a safety defect. However, the interest of the best possible service to Nissan’s customers and longstanding commitment of proactive and collaborative relationship with our regulators, Nissan would reclassify the subject Service Campaign as a Safety Recall.

Concurrently with the decision concerning the campaign reclassification in Canada, Nissan decided to reclassify the Service Campaign as a Safety Recall in U.S. and is reporting in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles have already been notified of the issue. However, those owners who have not yet elected to remedy their vehicles will be re-notified via a recall letter within the next 60 days.

An EV Certified Nissan dealer will reprogram the electrically-driven Intelligent Brake Control Unit software on the customer’s Nissan LEAF.

Nissan will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy for the subject vehicles that are no longer under warranty. The statement will be excluded for the subject vehicles that are still under

warranty. Your office will be provided with a copy of the Part 577 owner notification for approval.

8. Copy of Notices:

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