

NISSAN GROUP
OF NORTH AMERICA



Nissan North America, Inc.
One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:
PO Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068

April 22, 2016

Mr. Gregory K. Rea
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 Sir:

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 on May 24, 2016 and will notify all affected owners within 60 days.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Latta".

Derek Latta
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc. Smyrna Plant
Nissan North America, Inc. Canton Plant
Nissan Mexicana, S.A. de C.V. Aguascalientes Plant
Nissan Mexicana, S.A. de C.V. Civac Plant
Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. Tochigi Plant
Renault Samsung MFG Plant (RSM)

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

The issue affects the vehicles shown below. Nissan is in the process of specifically identifying and confirming the affected population. Nissan will supplement the manufacturing range information when it is finalized.

Nissan Altima
Nissan LEAF
Nissan Maxima
Nissan Murano
Nissan NV200/Taxi
Nissan Pathfinder
Nissan Rogue
Nissan Sentra
Infiniti Q50
Infiniti JX35
Infiniti QX60

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Nissan will specify the number of vehicles involved as soon as it is finalized.

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

100%

5. Description of the Defect:

In the subject vehicles, a small number of rare passenger ingress scenarios and unusual seating postures immediately upon entering the vehicle, can cause the Occupant Classification System (OCS) to initially classify an adult passenger as a child or classify an occupied seat as an "empty seat." In both

of such rare instances, the passenger airbag will be suppressed. If the vehicle begins driving while this condition is present, the current OCS logic will lock this classification until the vehicle comes to a stop and remains stationary for 12-13 seconds.

In the case of a child classification, the current logic is designed to illuminate the Passenger Airbag Indicator (PABI) light, alerting the customer that the air bag is disabled. However, if the initial classification is "empty seat," the PABI light will not illuminate and there is no indication to the seat occupant that the air bag is suppressed. In both instances, this issue may cause the passenger airbag not to deploy as designed in a crash, increasing the risk of injury to the front passenger seat occupant.

Nissan will also address a supply chain error which led to a small number of incorrect OCS control unit service parts being installed on certain Nissan Pathfinder vehicles during service. If this occurred, incompatibility may cause the OCS not to perform as designed and the passenger airbag not to deploy as designed in a crash, increasing the risk of injury to the front passenger seat occupant.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

In March 2014, Nissan launched a safety recall campaign (14V-138) to reprogram the OCS ECU in the subject vehicles manufactured prior to March 2014.

In March 2015, Nissan received Recall Query (RQ15-001) from NHTSA for the subject vehicles concerning post-remedy OCS performance.

In June 2015, Nissan responded to RQ15-001 stating that Nissan believed 14V-138 had resolved the safety defect and that there were no confirmed incidents of the defect condition addressed by Recall 14V-138 occurring after the recall remedy. Nissan noted the elevated warranty rate, but indicated that some of the warranty claims involved a properly operating system.

June 2015 to October 2015, Nissan continued active dialogue with NHTSA on the subject issue and specifically the post 14V-138 warranty data. Nissan met with NHTSA in July 2015. In addition, Nissan and NHTSA jointly inspected a customer buy-back vehicle in August 2015. Throughout this time period, Nissan actively monitored field information and did not identify any occurrences of the defect condition identified in 14V-138.

October 19, 2015 – Nissan issued recall 15V-681 to address approximately 900 vehicles that may have been serviced with an incorrect service parts.

In November 2015 - Nissan met with NHTSA representatives to continue discussions related to the subject issue. Nissan also received Engineering

Analysis (EA15-004) information request from NHTSA related to the subject issue.

In early December 2015 - Nissan and Calsonic Kansei (CK) met with NHTSA representatives, to update the Agency on the status of Nissan's ongoing investigation and areas of potential system improvements.

Throughout this time period, Nissan continued to actively monitor field information and did not identify any occurrences of the defect condition identified in 14V-138. Further, Nissan observed a reduction in warranty claims.

In late December 2015 to January 2016 - Nissan became aware of three (3) incidents where the OCS system may not have performed as designed in a crash. None of these resulted in serious injuries. Nissan immediately began an investigation into these incidents to determine whether the system malfunctioned. This included customer interviews and vehicle re-purchase for further investigation of the OCS system.

During this time period, Nissan also worked with NHTSA to provide the Agency vehicle from the 14V-138 recall population for NHTSA's independent testing.

January 22, 2016 - Nissan replied to EA15-004 with updated field data.

In February 2016, Nissan met with NHTSA to update the Agency on the status of Nissan's investigation into the field incidents and to offer NHTSA staff an opportunity to inspect the three vehicles identified above. Nissan also informed NHTSA that Nissan was studying system improvements that could be rapidly implemented in production.

In March 2016 Nissan met with NHTSA to update the Agency on the status of its investigation and planned production improvements to the OCS system. Separately, NHTSA and Nissan conducted a joint inspection of the three (3) re-purchased incident vehicles at the Nissan Technical Center in Michigan.

In early April 2016, Nissan again met with NHTSA to explain the planned production OCS improvements and its intent to conduct a field remedy program for in-use vehicles. Nissan provided the Agency with technical details, answered questions concerning the system and the proposed improvements, and conferred with the Agency on the campaign classification.

April 18, 2016 - Based on the Agency's feedback and internal assessment of the issues, Nissan decided to conduct a Safety Recall and report this issue in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified 49 CFR Part 573.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers will be notified on May 24, 2016. Owners of the potentially affected vehicles will receive interim notification letters within 60 days, followed by final notification letters once the remedies are available. Affected owners will be advised that if they experience any issues with OCS to immediately contact the dealer for repairs. The remedy will vary based on the vehicle as described below:

Affected Altima, Maxima, Murano, Rogue, and Sentra vehicles will be remedied as follows:

1. Air Bag Control Unit (ACU) reprogramming
2. OCS Electronic Control Unit (ECU) reprogramming

Affected LEAF, NV200/Taxi, Pathfinder, Q50, JX35/QX60 will be remedied by replacing the OCS ECU.

This remedy will be offered at no charge to the customer. 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.