

NISSAN

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By Recall Management Division at 11:15 am, Mar 15, 2013

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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March 13, 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 Ms. Lewis:

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 by March 19, 2013 and begin notifying owners on April 8, 2013.

We do not plan to put 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,



Don Neff
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

MY 2012-2013 NV vehicles manufactured from December 20, 2010 (start of production) through January 4, 2013 at the Canton, MS plant that are equipped with a steering column-mounted transmission shift. Some MY 2013 Titan vehicles are equipped with steering column-mounted transmission shift levers but they are not affected by the assembly issue described in Section 5.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 18,880 MY 2012-2013 Nissan NV vehicles. This excludes the vehicles that were inspected and remedied during the yard audit.

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

Due to a manufacturing issue that has since been corrected, the transmission lever gear selector plate lock clip may have been installed incorrectly. As a result of normal road vibration over time, the clip could move out of position, which could cause the gear selector to malfunction. Specifically, the clip can disengage from the steering column bracket and allow the transmission cable to move out of position. If this occurs, there is a risk that the transmission shift lever will not match the actual gear position which may cause the vehicle to not be properly secured in the Park position.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

December 10, 2012 – Nissan was notified of a warranty claim for the column-mounted shifter cable clip. The issue was determined to be caused by an out-of position clip that is designed to retain the shifter cable to the column bracket. Nissan initiated an investigation to determine the cause and potential consequences of this issue.

In addition, Nissan conducted a plant yard audit to determine whether additional vehicles were affected. This audit identified certain other NV vehicles that also had a lock clip that was not installed to specification.

January 2013 – Nissan concluded that the retaining clip was not installed properly by technicians assigned to the NV assembly line. A countermeasure was implemented in production on January 4th to address this.

January 2013 - February 2013 - Nissan continued to investigate and assess the potential consequences of the problem. In particular, Nissan studied the possible effects of an improperly installed clip on transmission shift lever operation. This included simulating transmission operation with a completely disengaged clip.

Warranty data was reviewed to determine if there were any previous occurrences, and current field data was monitored.

March 7, 2013 - Although Nissan is not aware of any crashes associated with this issue, Nissan determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a safety recall campaign would 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 dealer will inspect and re-position the clip if necessary at no charge.

8. Copy of Notices:

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