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By Recall Management Division at 11:06 am, Aug 10, 2011

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Headquarters
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11V-408
(3 Pages)

August 9, 2011

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. Dealers will be notified on August 10, 2011 and owner notification will begin on August 22, 2011. We will not include information in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as these vehicles are under warranty.

Very truly,



John Gibbons
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain 2012 Model year Nissan Altima vehicles manufactured between June 15, 2011 and June 21, 2011 and Model year 2012 Nissan NV vehicles manufactured between June 23, 2011 and June 28, 2011. The subject air bag control units were only installed in the aforementioned vehicles; no other Nissan vehicles were affected in the United States.

The name and address of the supplier is:

Calsonic Kansei North America, Inc.
One Calsonic Way
Shelbyville, TN USA 37160
Tel: 931-684-4490

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

USA: 32 Nissan Altima vehicles; 22 Nissan NV vehicles (54 total vehicles)

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

Due to an operational error in the supplier air bag control unit ("ACU") assembly process, the ACU capacitors were placed in incorrect locations on the circuit board. As a result, the affected ACU will not operate as designed and this issue may cause the air bags not to inflate in a crash when they are designed to inflate. This could increase the risk of injury.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

June 2011 – Nissan was notified by Calsonic Kansei (CK) of an incorrect operation that was discovered during the air bag unit assembly process. An inventory hold and quality inspection was immediately performed by CK.

Further investigation revealed that during a certain discreet production period, due to an operator error, it was possible that the capacitor reels could have been fed incorrectly into the machine that assembles the circuit boards. The manufacturing issue was promptly corrected at the supplier's plant and a countermeasure was implemented.

July 2011 - An investigation was conducted by Nissan to determine whether any Nissan vehicles were affected. During the course of this investigation, which included a yard audit and a limited dealer inspection, Nissan determined that a small number of Model Year 2012 Nissan Altima and NV vehicles that were outside of the manufacturer's control were potentially involved.

August 2, 2011 - Nissan determined that a safety related defect exists and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan or Infiniti dealer. The air bag control unit will be replaced with a new one.

8. Copy of Notices:

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