



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100222

Date Received: 12 JAN 2005
Repository:
Reference No.: 10109280

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)
Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City: ROCKVILLE CENTRE State: NY Zip Code: [Redacted]

Daytime Telephone Number: [Redacted] E-mail Address: [Redacted]
Evening Telephone Number: [Redacted]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner: [Redacted] YES NO Date: 2/15/05

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (located at bottom of windshield on driver's side): 1N4BA41E [Redacted]
Make: NISSAN Model: MAXIMA Model Year: 2005
Date Purchased: 1/2/2005 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: Major Nissan of Garden City (516) 483-4400
Original Owner: Dealer's City: Garden City State: NY Zip Code: 11538
Engine: 6 No. Cylinders Fuel Type: Gas
Transmission Type: AUTOMATIC Antilock Brakes Powertrain: FRONT WHEEL DRIVE
 Cruise Control Vehicle Component Code: 08000 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 12-JAN-2005 Failure Mileage: 278 Failure Speed: 40mph

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: [Redacted] Tire Model (Name or Number): [Redacted] Tire Size (Example P215/65R15): [Redacted]
DOT No. (Example: DOTM18BABC036): [Redacted] Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: [Redacted]
Tire Component Code: [Redacted] Tire Failure Type: [Redacted]

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: [Redacted] Date Manufactured: [Redacted] Model No./Name: [Redacted]
Seat Type: [Redacted] Installation System: [Redacted]
Child Seat Component Code: [Redacted] Failed Part: [Redacted]

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please check to detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(es))
Crash: Yes No Fire: Yes No
Number of Persons Injured: [Redacted] Number of Deaths: [Redacted] Reported to Police: N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(es).
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure, i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

THE VEHICLE WILL CRANK, BUT WOULD NOT START. WHILE DRIVING HOME THE VEHICLE SHUT DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INTERSECTION. VEHICLE WAS INCHED INTO A PARKING LOT. TOWED THE NEXT DAY. THE IPDM MODULE WAS FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE. THE MODULE PART WAS ON BACK ORDER. *AK

Please see attachment.

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.
The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Letter to the NHTSA sent back 2/15/05 w/ ^{Owner's} Questionnaire

I purchased a brand new Nissan 2005 Maxima from Major Nissan in Garden City, New York on 1/2/05...on 1/12/05 I experienced a problem where I could not start the car but after trying several times I was able to. I was told after reporting this immediately to the salesperson that if it happens again they will bring the car in immediately. I used the car between 1/12/05 and 1/14/05 and the car seemed to be fine. On 1/14/05 I was driving home at midnight alone in the car and without warning...(no dash lights or signals) the car just died while I was crossing a major intersection.) I could not restart the car at all for several minutes while I was in this intersection.) Short of getting out and abandoning the vehicle for fear of being hit by oncoming traffic...I was able to start the car and inch it to a safer location. I had the car towed the next day to the dealership because it was unable to start or be driven. The tow truck driver flooded the engine trying to get it onto the lowtruck. I have had nothing but problems with this vehicle and the dealership since then. I was told that the "IPDM" computer module internally failed and that this is not a "stocked" item. I was told that one was taken out of a stock car on their lot. I requested to have a brand new one ordered (with much hassle this was done but was told to me that this part is on "back order" and would not be in for weeks.) The next day...I was called by the service manager that the new part had come in. It has not yet been put into my car b/c since then I have been experiencing other mechanical problems with this vehicle. The car smells like sulfur and the gears "buck" when changing upon acceleration...the dash controls go on and off intermittently without warning. I researched this "IPDM" and found that it controls the ENTIRE power distribution for the whole vehicle...when this part fails so does the car (as I experienced). I feel extremely UNSAFE in this car...and do not feel comfortable taking passengers in it either. I have been in contact with Nissan Motor Corporation...with no satisfaction. I feel that just replacing this IPDM is NOT the answer. I believe that there is a design defect in this part and that it is a complete SAFETY Hazard. I could have been killed in this car that night...I had been driving on a highway prior to getting stuck in that intersection...and unsuspectingly this car just stopped. What if it would have happened in the left lane of a highway? I do not feel that Nissan is addressing this issue or my concern about safety...and feel that they do not want to take responsibility for it. I spent a lot of money on this car to have peace of mind and I have NONE! Maybe next time this part internally fails (and I believe if one can so can others even if it is a NEW part) I won't be so lucky to get out of the way of danger...nor will the other unsuspecting 2005 Maxima customers. Nissan Motor Corporation as well as the dealership do not see the urgency of this situation...they both have reported to me that they know of other times this part was replaced on other 2005 Maximas...my feeling is that one death due to a mechanical failure of a car is still one death too many. This car is a brand new design and I believe that this is a MAJOR flaw in design to have no auxiliary power or warning for when this should occur. I am writing you to request help on this matter. This is my only means of transportation.

VIN# 1N4BA41E8S [REDACTED]

2005 Nissan Maxima SL 3.5

supposed to get 20mpg city & 28mpg highway -
only getting actually 13.5mpg