



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 8, 2008

[REDACTED]
Charleston, WV [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10211696

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 23, 2007, concerning your model year (MY) 2003 Nissan Altima vehicle. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation on December 6, 2007.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

Federal regulations require a manufacturer conducting a safety recall of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment to reimburse owners who have paid to obtain a remedy for the problem within a reasonable time, which in many instances is one year, prior to the manufacturer's notification. Certain restrictions apply, including the need to submit certain documents to the manufacturer. Owners should follow the instructions in the recall notification letter to file a claim. Owners who feel that their claim was wrongfully denied should pursue the matter with the manufacturer. Additionally, our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, damage caused by the defect, etc.). Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to reimburse vehicle owners for any costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Fields, Chief



Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement