



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 100148

Date Received

09-JUN-2009

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10273176

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

CHATTAHOOCHEE

State

FL

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☐ YES ☒ NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA will not provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner _____ Date 6/16/2009

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

1N4AL11D12C

Make

NISSAN

Model

ALTIMA

Model Year

2002

Date Purchased

7/21/02

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Rahal & Miller Nissan

Engine:

No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Premium
Unleaded

Original Owner

Dealer's City

Marianna

State

FL

Zip Code

Transmission Type

Automatic

☒ Antilock Brakes

☒ Cruise Control

Powertrain

Multiple Failure:

Incident Date(s)

20-MAY-2009
Mar 18-11 2006

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Vehicle Component Codes: 060000 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING; 063140 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING;
EXHAUST SYSTEM: EMISSION CONTROL: CATALYTIC CONVERTOR

Failure Mileage

60000
129,000

Failure Speed

20

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM9ABC036)

☐ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type:

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

☐ Yes ☒ No

Fire

☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Persons Injured

0

Number of Deaths

0

Reported to Police

N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

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).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2002 NISSAN ALTIMA WITH A 2.5 LITER ENGINE. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ILLUMINATED ON TWO OCCASIONS. THE FIRST FAILURE OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY IN APRIL OF 2006 AND AGAIN IN MAY OF 2009. SHE FOUND NHTSA CAMPAIGN ID NUMBER 03V084000 ON THE INTERNET AND REALIZED THAT SHE WAS EXPERIENCING THE SAME ISSUES WITH HER VEHICLE; HOWEVER, THE DEALER STATED THAT HER VIN WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE RECALL. IN 2006, THE DEALER STATED THAT THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER WAS CLOGGED AND CHARGED \$1,000 TO HAVE IT REPLACED. A RECALL NOTICE IN 2002 DID NOT STATE THAT IT WAS RELATED TO A VIN AT THAT TIME. THE RECALL WAS LATER AMENDED IN 2006 AND 2008 TO PERTAIN TO A SPECIFIC VIN. IN MAY OF 2009, WHILE DRIVING 20 MPH, THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ILLUMINATED AGAIN AND BLACK SMOKE AND OIL POURED OUT OF THE TAIL PIPE. THE DEALER STATED THAT THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER AND ENGINE NEEDED TO BE REPLACED BECAUSE THE ENGINE HAD CONSUMED OIL. THE VEHICLE CAN BE DRIVEN AS LONG AS THE OIL DOES NOT LEAK. AN INDEPENDENT TECHNICIAN STATED THAT IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER TO BE REPLACED THIS FREQUENTLY. THE FIRST FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 60,000 AND THE RECENT FAILURE AND CURRENT MILEAGES WERE 129,000.

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.

Rahal-Miller Chevrolet Buick, Inc.

4204 W. LAFAYETTE ST. PO BOX 700

MARIANNA, FL 32447

850-482-3051

Wrecker service: 850-718-6298



phone#s: 866-421-4975

850-482-6317

www.rahalnissan.com

phone#: 800-338-8043
www.rahatchevy.com

RECOMMENDED SERVICES

OPERATION	OPERATION DESCRIPTION	MO/MI	TOTAL	OPERATION	OPERATION DESCRIPTION	MO/MI	TOTAL
01CVZ100	100000+ MILE SERVICE	MI			Called Customer 6/2 8:10 Customer called Nissan about motor converter we replaced converter		

SERVICE HISTORY

DATE	REPAIR ORDER	MILEAGE	ADVISOR	TECHNICIAN	TYPE	OPERATION	OPERATION DESCRIPTION
03/15/06	192513C	104024	20	57	C	3KCV	on oil
11/11/05	188359C	99922	20	70	C	MISCCV	
				70	C	MISCCV	
11/11/05	188360C	99922	20	70	C	24RCV	
07/11/05	183824C	90308	20	70	W	PB1352CV	
				13	C	3KCV	

SALESPERSON NO. 503117

S E R V I C E

STATE REG# 2

TERMS CASH ☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ CHECK ☐ (PRIOR APPROVAL) OTHER ☐	VEHICLE I.D. NO. 1N4AL11D12C	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL 02/NISSAN/ALTIMA/4DR SDN AT	PRODUCTION DATE 07/23/02	STOCK NO.	LICENSE NO.	R.O. NO. 46463
CALL WHEN READY ☐ YES ☐ NO	RESIDENCE PHONE	BUSINESS PHONE	CUSTOMER NO.	SERVICE CONTRACT	DELIVERY DATE 07/23/02	DELIVERY MILES
SAVE REMOVED PARTS FOR CUSTOMER ☐ YES ☐ NO	TIME RECEIVED 07:19am	DATE/TIME PROMISED 06/01/09 05:00pm	PRIORITY	APPOINTMENT ☐ Yes ☒ No	APPOINTMENT ☐ Yes ☒ No	APPOINTMENT ☐ Yes ☒ No
E# 2.5_LITER_GAS			LABOR RATE			

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

I hereby authorize the repair work hereinafter set forth to be done along with the necessary material and agree that you are not responsible for loss or damage to vehicle or articles left in vehicle in case of fire, theft, or any other cause beyond your control or for any delays caused by unavailability of parts or delays in parts shipments by the supplier or transporter. I hereby grant you and/or your employees permission to operate the vehicle herein described on streets, highways or elsewhere for the purpose of testing and/or inspection. An express mechanic's lien is hereby acknowledged on above vehicle to secure the amount of repairs thereto.

A day storage fee will be charged three (3) working days after you have been notified of work on your vehicle has been completed. The daily storage fee is \$5.00.

NISSAN Called 6/15/09 Decline

ORIGINAL CUSTOMER ESTIMATE:

New Estimates

TOTAL

C 10CVZ DRIVEABILITY
CUSTOMER COMPL BURNING OIL OUT (THREW MUFFLER)

Schuman, w/Converter 14002-85008 519.97
14036-6N200 12.15

Engine Assy

T. Stat

Water outlet gasket

Coolant Pipe O' Rings

Oil Filter

Oil

AntiFreeze

Estimate
Parts 2771.34
Labor 1147.00
Misc Supplies 20.00
Other 532.12
Subtotal 4470.46
Tax 335.28
Total 4805.74

Estimate
Parts 2771.34
Labor 1147.00
Misc Supplies 20.00
Other
Subtotal 3938.34
Tax 295.37
Total 4233.71

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS MADE
I hereby authorize the repair work hereinafter set forth to be done along with the necessary material and agree that you are not responsible for loss or damage to vehicle or articles left in vehicle in case of fire, theft, or any other cause beyond your control or for any delays caused by unavailability of parts or delays in parts shipments by the supplier or transporter. I hereby grant you and/or your employees permission to operate the vehicle herein described on streets, highways or elsewhere for the purpose of testing and/or inspection. An express mechanic's lien is hereby acknowledged on above vehicle to secure the amount of repairs thereto.

CUST. SIGN. X

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, CHECK ONE OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW, AND SIGN: I UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER STATE LAW, I AM ENTITLED TO A WRITTEN ESTIMATE, IF MY FINAL BILL WILL EXCEED \$100.00.

I REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE.
DO NOT REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE AS LONG AS THE REPAIR COSTS DO NOT EXCEED \$100.00. THE SHOP MAY NOT EXCEED THIS AMOUNT WITHOUT MY WRITTEN OR ORAL APPROVAL.

I DO NOT REQUEST A WRITTEN ESTIMATE.

SIGNED: _____	DATE: _____
ORIGINAL ESTIMATE \$ _____	TIME _____
OTHER PERSON WHO MAY AUTHORIZE REPAIRS _____	ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED \$ AMOUNT _____
ADD'L. REPAIRS AUTHORIZED BY: _____	DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL WORK AUTHORIZED _____
REVISED ESTIMATE \$ _____	AUTHORIZATION RECEIVED BY _____

SHOP SUPPLIES: This charge represents costs and profits to the motor vehicle repair facility for miscellaneous shop supplies or waste disposal. The State of Florida requires a \$1.00 fee to be collected for each new tire sold in the state [s.403.718], and a \$1.50 fee to be collected for each new or remanufactured battery sold in the state [s.403.7185].



Rahal-Miller

Chevrolet Buick, Inc.

phone#: 800-338-8043
www.rahalmiller.com

4204 W. LAFAYETTE ST. PO BOX 700
MARIANNA, FL 32447
850-482-3051
Wrecker service: 850-718-6298

phone#: 866-421-4975
850-482-6317
www.rahalmiller.com

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR
REGISTRATION NUMBER
MV-11849

CUSTOMER NO.	COBY SMITH		134 TAG NO.	06/05/09	NICS46463
LABOR RATE	LICENSE NO.	MILEAGE IN	129,596	WHITE/	STOCK NO.
YEAR / MAKE / MODEL	02 / NISSAN / ALTIMA / 4DR SDN AT			07/23/02	DELIVERY MILES
VEHICLE NO.	1N4AL11D12C			SELLING DEALER NO.	PRODUCTION DATE
R.T.E. NO.	P.O. NO.			06/01/09	MILEAGE OUT
RE	BUSINESS PHONE	COMMENTS LITER GAS MO: 129596			
JOB# 1 CHARGES					
LABOR J# 1 10CVZ DRIVEABILITY TECH(S):70 74.00 CUSTOMER COMPL BURNING OIL OUT(THREW MUFFLER) DIAGNOSTIC TIME ONLY NEEDS ENGINE ASSY AND CAT CONVERTER CUSTOMER DECLINED REPAIRS					
JOB# 1 TOTALS 74.00					
LABOR 74.00					
JOB# 1 JOURNAL PREFIX NICS JOB# 1 TOTAL 74.00					
COMMENTS CUSTOMER CALLED 06-05-09 12:50 PM STATED SHE WAS GOING TO PICK UP VEHICLE BECAUSE NISSAN DECLINED TO WARRANTY REPAIRS ON 6-3-09 SHE HAS HER ATTORNEY LOOKING INTO MATTER					
TOTALS					
***** * [] CASH [] CHECK CK NO. [] * * [] VISA [] MASTERCARD [] DISCOVER * * [] AMER XPRESS [] OTHER [] CHARGE * *****					
TOTAL LABOR.... 74.00 TOTAL PARTS.... 0.00 TOTAL SUBLET.... 0.00 TOTAL G.O.G.... 0.00 TOTAL MISC CHG. 0.00 TOTAL MISC DISC 0.00 TOTAL TAX..... 5.55 TOTAL INVOICE \$ 79.55					
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!!					
CUSTOMER SIGNATURE ***** DUPLICATE INVOICE *****					
PAID [] CASH [] CHECK [] CREDIT CARD					
CUSTOMER SIGNATURE					

INVOICE

P.O. Box 700 Marianna, Florida 32447
4204 Lafayette St. Marianna, Florida 32446 Phone
(850) 482-3051

CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL
HOME: [REDACTED] BUS:

PAGE 1

The State of Florida Registration Number: MV-11849

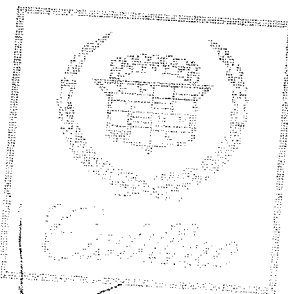
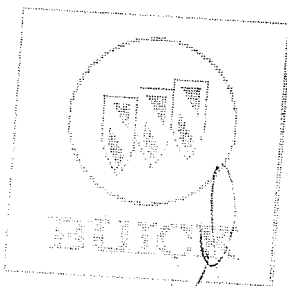
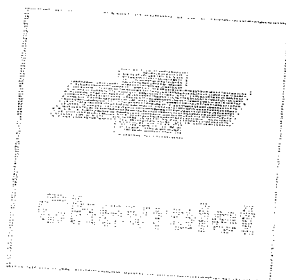
SERVICE ADVISOR:

20 REBECCA J LAWRENCE

COLOR	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	VIN	LICENSE	MILEAGE IN/OUT	TAG
WHITE	02	NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D12C		90308/90308	
DEL DATE	PROD. DATE	WARR. EXP.	PROMISED	PO NO.	RATE	PAYMENT
23JUL02 IS			17:30 08JUL05		0.00	CASH
R.O. OPENED	READY	OPTIONS:	STK:4765000	DLR:08230	ENG:2.5_Liter_Gas	08JUL05
07:42 08JUL05	07:49 08JUL05					
LINE OPCODE	TECH	TYPE	HOURS			
A 3000 MAINT						
3K 3000 MAINT						
13 CCN	0.30					
1 15208-9E000	FILTER OIL					
5 6000 OIL						
14.55	LABOR:					
7.40	OTHER:					
0.00						
TOTAL LINE A:						

LIST NET TOTAL

6.52 7.40 7.40
1.90 5.05 5.05
1.90 9.50 9.50
TOTAL LINE A: 21.95



Charge represents costs and profits to the motor repair facility
cellaneous shop supplies or waste disposal [S.559.904 (4)]
of Florida requires a \$1.00 fee to be collected for each new
in the state [S.403.718], and a \$1.50 fee to be collected
h new or remanufactured battery sold in the state
7185].

ALL PARTS ARE NEW OR FACTORY REBUILT
UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE

ES- A token charge is included for supplies used
vehicle. Applicable supply items are; Nuts, bolts,
s, tape, pins, solvents, carburator cleaner, solder,
alers, lubricants, ETC. It also includes costs and
its for waste disposal. The charge for both is
alent to 20% of the total labor charge up to a
maximum of \$20.00.

*I understand parts used in the repairs may be new, reconditioned,
remanufactured, nonoriginal manufacturer's parts, or salvageable
used parts.

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

The only warranties applying to this part(s) is that offered by the
manufacturer. The Rahal Chevrolet-Buick, Inc., hereby expressly
disclaims all warranties, either express or implied, including any
implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular
purpose, and neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to
assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of these parts
and service. Buyer shall not be entitled to recover from the selling
dealer any consequential damage, damage to property, damages
for loss of use, loss of time, loss of profits, or income, or any other
incidental damages. Parts and labor are guaranteed for 90 days or
4,000 miles, whichever comes first.

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

DESCRIPTION	TOTALS
LABOR AMOUNT	7.40
PARTS AMOUNT	14.55
GAS, OIL, LUBE	0.00
SUBLET AMOUNT	0.00
MISC. CHARGES	0.00
TOTAL CHARGES	21.95
LESS INSURANCE	0.00
SALES TAX	1.64
PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT	23.59

CUSTOMER COPY

4765000

1 5 5 6 5 4

Rahal Chevrolet-Buick, Inc.

INVOICE

P.O. Box 700

Marianna, Florida 32447

4204 Lafayette St. Marianna, Florida 32446 Phone

(850) 482-3051

CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL
HOME: BUS:

PAGE 1

The State of Florida Registration Number: MV-11849

SERVICE ADVISOR: 20 REBECCA J LAWRENCE

COLOR	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL		VIN	LICENSE	MILEAGE IN/ OUT		TAG
WHITE	02	NISSAN ALTIMA		1N4AL11D12C		33497/33497		
DEL DATE	PROD. DATE	WARR. EXP.	PROMISED	PO NO.	RATE	PAYMENT	INV. DATE	
23JUL2002			17:30 21MAY03		0.00	CASH	22MAY2003	
R.O. OPENED		READY		OPTIONS: STK:4765000 DLR:08230 ENG:2.5 Liter Gas				

LINE	OPCODE	TECH	TYPE	HOURS	LIST	NET	TOTAL
------	--------	------	------	-------	------	-----	-------

CUST COMPL TRANY IS USING FLUID OR LOOSING FLUID, SHE ADDED A QUART
ON 5/20/03

MISC TRANS FLUID OVER FULL DRAINED

11 WOOTEN, JOHNNY LIC#: 0

CCN 0.00

PARTS: 0.00 LABOR: 0.00 OTHER: 0.00 TOTAL LINE A: 0.00

This charge represents costs and profits to the motor repair facility
for miscellaneous shop supplies or waste disposal [S.559.904 (4)]

The state of Florida requires a \$1.00 fee be collected for each new
battery sold in the state [S.403.718], and a \$1.50 fee to be collected
for each new or remanufactured battery sold in the state
[S.403.7185].

**ALL PARTS ARE NEW OR FACTORY REBUILT
UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE**

SUPPLIES- A token charge is included for supplies used
on your vehicle. Applicable supply items are; Nuts, bolts,
washers, tape, pins, solvents, carburetor cleaner, solder,
wire, sealers, lubricants, ETC. It also includes costs and
profits for waste disposal. The charge for both is
equivalent to 20% of the total labor charge up to a
maximum of \$20.00.

*I understand parts used in the repairs may be new, reconditioned,
remanufactured, nonoriginal manufacturer's parts, or salvageable
used parts.

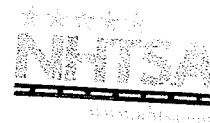
DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

The only warranties applying to this part(s) is that offered by the
manufacturer. The Rahal Chevrolet-Buick, Inc., hereby expressly
disclaims all warranties, either express or implied, including any
implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular
purpose, and neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to
assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of these parts
and service. Buyer shall not be entitled to recover from the selling
dealer any consequential damage, damage to property, damages
for loss of use, loss of time, loss of profits, or income, or any other
incidental damages. Parts and labor are guaranteed for 90 days or
4,000 miles, whichever comes first.

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

DESCRIPTION	TOTALS
LABOR AMOUNT	0.00
PARTS AMOUNT	0.00
GAS, OIL, LUBE	0.00
SUBLET AMOUNT	0.00
MISC. CHARGES	0.00
TOTAL CHARGES	0.00
LESS INSURANCE	0.00
SALES TAX	0.00
PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT	0.00

CUSTOMER COPY

**OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION (ODI)****Recalls - Search Results**

1 Record(s) Displayed.

Report Date : June 6, 2009 at 08:19 AM

Search Type : VEHICLE

Make: NISSAN

Model or Model No.: ALTIMA

Model Year: 2002

Make: NISSAN

Model Year: 2002

Model: ALTIMA

Manufacturer: NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Mfr's Report Date: MAR 07, 2003

NHTSA CAMPAIGN ID Number: 03V084000

NHTSA Action Number: PE02078

Component: ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM:MANIFOLD/HEADER/MUFFLER/TAIL PIPE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 338000

Summary:

ON CERTAIN VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH THE 2.5 LITER ENGINE, THE EXHAUST PIPE HANGER PIN MAY CATCH DEBRIS FROM THE ROAD THAT COULD BE IGNITED BY CONTACT WITH THE MAIN CATALYST. ALSO ON 2002 ALTIMA AND SENTRA VEHICLES, CERTAIN ENGINE OPERATING CONDITIONS MAY CAUSE THE PRE-CATALYST TO OVERHEAT AND DAMAGE THE CATALYST SUBSTRATE.

Consequence:

EITHER OF THESE TWO CONDITIONS COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REMOVE THE PROTRUDING PORTION OF THE EXHAUST PIPE HANGER PIN. IN ADDITION TO THE CORRECTIVE ACTION, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE IN THE EVENT OF POOR OR IMPROPER MAINTENANCE THAT COULD RESULT IN OIL SPILLAGE, HEAT SHIELD(S) WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE PRE-CATALYST AND EXHAUST TUBE. OWNER NOTIFICATION BEGAN ON JULY 28, 2003. OWNERS WHO TAKE THEIR VEHICLES TO AN AUTHORIZED DEALER ON AN AGREED UPON SERVICE DATE AND DO NOT RECEIVE THE FREE REMEDY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME SHOULD CONTACT NISSAN AT 1-800-647-7261. NISSAN RECALL NOS. R3007, R3014, R3015, R3016, R3017. ALSO ON 2002 ALTIMA AND SENTRA VEHICLES, CERTAIN ENGINE OPERATING CONDITIONS MAY CAUSE THE PRE-CATALYST TO OVERHEAT AND DAMAGE THE CATALYST SUBSTRATE. IF SUBSTRATE PARTICLES ENTER THE COMBUSTION CHAMBER, THEY COULD SCORE THE CYLINDER WALLS, RESULTING IN INCREASED OIL CONSUMPTION. IF THE ENGINE OIL LEVEL IS NOT CHECKED ON A PERIODIC BASIS AND DROPS BELOW THE LOW LEVEL, AND THE DRIVER CONTINUES TO OPERATE THE VEHICLE IGNORING NOTICEABLE ENGINE NOISE, ENGINE DAMAGE MAY OCCUR WHICH COULD RESULT IN A FIRE. THE PRE-CATALYST WILL BE TESTED TO ENSURE IT IS WORKING PROPERLY AND REPLACED IF NECESSARY. IF DAMAGE IS FOUND INSIDE THE PRE-CATALYST, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REPLACE THE ENGINE.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

VIN# 1N4A211B12C [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office
18501 South Figueroa St.
Gardena, California 90248-4500

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 191
Gardena, California 90248-0191

Telephone: 310.532.1111

March 7, 2003

03V-084 ① of ③

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

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 currently plans to begin owner notification in May 2003.

Very truly,


Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

RECEIVED
MAR 11 P 2:21
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

03V-084 ② or ③

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

2002 and 2003 model year Nissan Altima vehicles equipped with the 2.5 Liter engine produced from August 1, 2001 (start of production) to February 18, 2003, and 2002 model year Sentra vehicles equipped with the 2.5 Liter engine produced from September 27, 2001 (start of production) to July 19, 2002. Vehicles manufactured after these dates are not affected.

3. **Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Approximately 268,000.

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

For 2002 and 2003 model year Altima vehicles equipped with the 2.5 Liter engine, the exhaust pipe hanger pin may catch debris from the road which could be ignited by contact with the main catalyst.

In addition, for 2002 model year Altima and Sentra vehicles equipped with the 2.5 Liter engine, certain engine operating conditions may cause the pre-catalyst to overheat and damage the catalyst substrate. If substrate particles enter the combustion chamber, they may score the cylinder walls, resulting in increased oil consumption. If the engine oil level is not checked on a periodic basis as specified in the Owner's Manual and drops below the low level, and the driver continues to operate the vehicle ignoring noticeable engine noise, engine damage may occur which could result in a fire.

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

October 23, 2002 - NHTSA sent an information request concerning reports of alleged engine compartment fires on 2002 Altima vehicles equipped with the 2.5 Liter engine.

October 2002 – February 2003 – Nissan conducted an investigation to determine the cause of the fires and identify affected vehicles.

February 28, 2003 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect may exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan plans to begin notifying owners of potentially affected vehicles in May 2003. On Altimas, the protruding portion of the exhaust pipe hanger pin will be removed. Nissan is now developing a plan to address the pre-catalyst on 2002 Altimas and Sentras. Details of this plan will be provided when they are finalized.

In addition to the corrective action, in order to reduce the risk of fire in the event of poor or improper maintenance that could result in oil spillage, heat shield(s) will be installed on the pre-catalyst and exhaust tube.

8. Copy of Notices:

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