



ODI RESUME

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

INVESTIGATION: SQ99-0
SUBJECT: Corrosion Fatigue of Front Coil Springs
PROMPTED BY: Canadian Safety Recall 99-069
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER:

DATE OPENED:

MANUFACTURER: Nissan Motor Corporation
MODEL(S): Sentra
MODEL YEAR(S): 1994-96
VEHICLE POPULATION: TBD

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Corrosion fatigue of the front coil springs occurs as a result of loss of protective paint and exposure to road salt and deicing materials.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	1	Unk	1
CRASHES:	0	"	0
INJ CRASHES:	0	"	0
# INJURIES:	0	"	0
FAT CRASHES:	0	"	0
# FATALS:	0	"	0
OTHER:	0	"	0

ACTION: Open an SQ investigation.

ENGINEER: _____ DIV CHF: _____ OFC DIR: _____

DATE

DATE

DATE

SUMMARY: Nissan is conducting a safety recall in Canada of 11,100 1994 through 1996 Sentra 2 door models in which the front coil springs are fracturing from corrosion fatigue. Nissan reported that the failures occur from a loss of the protective paint coating on the springs and exposure to heavy road salt. Corrosion can cause pits to form on the spring surface, which can result in fatigue failure of the spring. A broken spring could puncture the affected tire, possibly causing a loss of vehicle control. The Canadian recall number for this is 99-069, dated April 28, 1999.

The purpose of this SQ is to determine whether the defect identified in the Canadian safety recall should be conducted in the U.S. as a safety recall.

SQ_nissan_springs