



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-020  
Prompted By: IE 04-005  
Date Opened: 02/26/2004 Date Closed: 06/24/2004  
Principal Investigator: Mark Swanson  
Subject: Failing headlights

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company, Nissan North America, Inc.  
Products: 1999-2000 Nissan Quest and Mercury Villager  
Population: 171,991

Problem Description: Complaints allege that the socket attached to the harness connector overheats and causes the headlamp to stop working.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	17	510	527
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description of Other:

Action: The Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been closed.

Engineer: Mark B. Swanson /MS  
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/24/2004  
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Summary: Nissan and Ford found that the original equipment headlight stainless steel bulb terminals may over time cause elevated contact resistance and overheat the electrical connector housing. This can result in a headlight flickering, bulb outage and heat deformation to the headlight connector. In April 1999, the supplier of the headlight for Nissan and Ford changed to a bulb using the stainless steel terminals that did not meet original specifications. On July 17, 2000, the supplier began using a bulb meeting the vehicle manufacturer's specifications.

This problem can affect independently either headlight but does not cause simultaneous failure of both headlights. The problem also does not affect front parking lamps. As a result, the complaints typical report single failure of one headlight. There are no crashes or loss of vehicle control reported.

A safety-related defect trend has not been identified at this time and further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that no safety-related defect exists. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.

MS  
6/29/04