



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-004
Date Opened: 01/28/2011
Investigator: John Abbott **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Frame/Body Structure Corrosion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.
Products: 1996-2004 Nissan Pathfinder & 1997-2003 Infiniti QX4
Population: 400,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Severe corrosion of the frame/body structure in the area of the driver's side front strut tower can allow the strut tower to fail, resulting in increased steering effort, steering impediment, or a complete loss of steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	35	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other:

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation has received 35 reports on the subject vehicles alleging a corrosion related failure of the driver's side front strut tower. In 18 of the reports there were allegations that the failures affected the vehicles steering, including five that reported the steering "shaft" or "column" broke resulting in a loss of steering.

Severe corrosion of the frame/body structure in the area of the driver's side front strut tower can allow the strut tower to fail. If the failed strut tower contacts the steering column upper joint, or otherwise restricts the rotation of the steering column shaft, it can result in increased steering effort, steering impediment, or a complete loss of steering control.