



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 14-018  
**Date Opened:** 06/24/2014  
**Investigator:** Stephen Mchenry      **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Pedal Operation Interference

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Nissan North America, Inc.  
**Products:** MY 2012-2014 Nissan Versa and Versa Note  
**Population:** 360,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Drivers describe incidents of interference between the tunnel carpet cover trim panel and the driver's right shoe when attempting to release the accelerator pedal, allegedly resulting in brief incidents of unwanted acceleration or delayed brake application.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	4	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	0	TBD	TBD

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received four complaints alleging that the tunnel carpet cover trim panel on Model Year (MY) 2012 through 2014 Nissan Versa, Versa Sedan and Versa Note vehicles has trapped the edge of the driver's shoe. The alleged condition interfered with the driver's ability to reduce the rate of acceleration as desired and also interfered with the driver's ability to apply the brakes when needed.

One complainant, VOQ 10597004, alleges that their foot was trapped by the trim panel such that they had to use their right hand to grab their leg and pull up to get their foot free, almost causing a crash during the event. The trim panel in question (Figure 1) is located next to the accelerator pedal and the lower corner is positioned such that it is near the right outer edge of the driver's shoe. The complainant supplied a photograph (Figure 2) showing how the edge of the panel wedged itself in the driver's shoe. Complainant 10573057 alleged that when attempting to remove their foot from the accelerator pedal to apply the brake, their shoe was caught by the trim panel which delayed braking ability several times. Two of the four complainants note that the vehicles were rental cars.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety-related consequence of the alleged defect.

The VOQs associated with this investigation are: 10597004, 10573057, 10503811, and 10498000. A fifth VOQ (10578373) is from a foreign country and is not counted in this resume.



Figure 1: Position of trim panel MY 2013 Versa  
(Arrow indicates corner that interferes with driver's shoe)



Figure 2: VOQ 10597004 demonstration of interference