



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 15-003
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 04/01/2015
Investigator: Stephen Mchenry **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Pedal Operation Interference

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Nissan North America, Inc.
Products: Nissan Versa Sedan and Versa Note, MY 2013 - 2015
Population: 360,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Drivers describe incidents of interference between the tunnel carpet cover trim panel and/or the HVAC relay actuator with the driver's right shoe when attempting to release the accelerator pedal, allegedly resulting in delayed brake application and sometimes brief incidents of unwanted acceleration as the driver tries to free their foot.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	11	18	24**
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
Number of Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Summary:

On June 24, 2014, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened PE14-018 to investigate allegations that the tunnel carpet cover trim panel on model year (MY) 2012 through 2014 Nissan Versa, Versa Sedan and Versa Note vehicles has, in certain situations, interfered with the driver's ability to promptly release the accelerator pedal and transition to the brake pedal. This may result in delayed brake application or brief incidents of unwanted acceleration.

At the opening of PE14-018, ODI had identified one complaint, VOQ 10597004, alleging that the driver's foot became caught by the subject trim panel to the extent that the driver decided that it was necessary to pull on their leg to get the foot free of the interference, almost causing a crash. 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. During the investigation, ODI received a VOQ, 10614957, that alleged that the driver's foot was interfered with by the trim panel, delaying the driver's ability to apply the brakes, resulting in a crash and minor injuries to the driver.

In addition, ODI has received VOQs alleging that the HVAC relay actuator, Figures 3 and 4, can also interfere with the driver's ability to react quickly to apply the brakes. MY 2015 Versa Sedan and Note vehicles have been added to the scope of the investigation as they are believed to have the same panel design and actuator placement as the subject vehicles.

An Engineering Analysis has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect. The subject vehicles from PE14-018 have been revised to exclude the MY 2012 Versa models because they do not use the same trim panel design.

The VOQs associated with this investigation are: 10649259, 10614957, 10610356, 10606766, 10606670, 10597004, 10498000, 10640644, 10606832, 10573057, and 10503811.



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



Figure 3. Position of HVAC actuator, red arrow, and trim panel corner, yellow arrow.

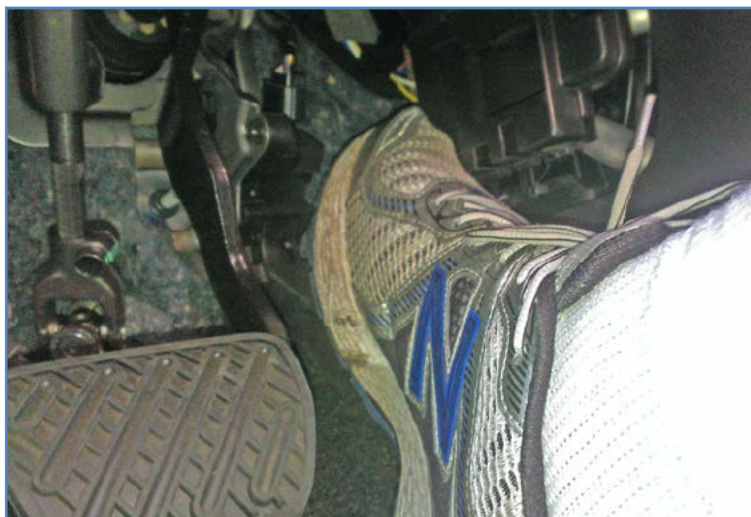


Figure 4. Photo supplied by VOQ 10640644 demonstrating interference by HVAC actuator.