



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 18-013
Date Opened: 12/01/2018
Investigator: Pedro Bonilla **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Rear Suspension Control Arm Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Nissan North America, Inc.
Products: MY 2013 Nissan Altima
Population: 374,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The lower control arm (lower spring link) of the rear suspension system may separate from the chassis due to corrosion.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	1	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other: Early Warning Reporting Data

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a preliminary evaluation.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has identified four complaints alleging the rear lower control arm assembly, which Nissan refers to as a lower spring link, failed (fractured) at a connection point to the vehicle chassis. The cause of the failure and separation was reportedly due to corrosion. All four reports involved a model year 2013 Nissan Altima and were received from complainants located in the so called "salt-belt" states. Complainants allege that the failure caused a loss of suspension at the rear of the vehicle and may also effect the alignment of the rear wheel on the affected spring link. One crash is alleged (see 11139513), however no incident details have yet been provided by the complainant. Three of the failures occurred while the vehicles were being driven at roadway speeds, the other occurred at a slower speed while backing out of a parking space. In one case, the complainant elected to have the vehicle towed after the failure occurred, and in another a technician who subsequently diagnosed the vehicle advised that the spring link on the opposite side of the vehicle was also near failure. ODI has also identified field report data submitted by Nissan under Early Warning Reporting that is pertinent to this issue.

A preliminary evaluation has been opened to evaluate the scope, frequency and consequence of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

The complaints cited above can be reviewed at NHTSA.gov under the following reference numbers: 11141169, 11139516, 11129476, 11114374