



NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

October 20, 2000

**Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

We are transmitting the enclosed Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. A voluntary recall campaign has been initiated. Also enclosed are a notification to dealers advising them not to sell any of the affected vehicles until they have been corrected and a draft Technical Services Bulletin which we are now sending to dealers along with repair parts so they can correct the vehicles prior to sale. None of the affected vehicles were retailed prior to this notification and at this time we do not anticipate having to notify any individual owners.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank D. Slaveter".

**Frank D. Slaveter
Corporate Manager,
Technical Compliance**

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

Ford Motor Company, which manufactures Quest vehicles for Nissan.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Certain 2001 model year Nissan Quest vehicles produced from SOP through October 11, 2000. Vehicles produced during this period may have front seat seatbelt buckle bolt(s) that can lose torque. Vehicles produced prior to and after this period, along with all other Nissan models, are not affected.

3. **Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Approximately 130.

4. **Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:**

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

The seatbelt buckle assembly is comprised of the buckle, cable, anchor plate, a plastic cover that the cable is inserted through, and an anti-rotation plate. The seatbelt buckle assembly is attached to the vehicle by a bolt that passes through the buckle assembly base, a washer, a star washer and into the seat pedestal. As the bolt passes through the buckle assembly base, the holes in the plastic cover, buckle cable anchor plate, and the anti-rotation plate must be aligned. During the assembly of the buckle components, the holes were not properly aligned. Because of this, the anchor bolt may seat against the plastic cover or the anti-rotation plate, rather than the washer. If this occurs, rotation of the buckle assembly through its allowable arc could be eliminated, or the anchor bolt could eventually loosen.

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

October 10, 2000 – Quality control processes at the vehicle assembly plant identified a seat belt buckle anchor bolt that was not torqued to specification.

October, 2000 – An investigation was conducted to determine the cause of the improperly torqued seatbelt bolt. Nissan's investigation determined that improper alignment between the parts making up the front seatbelt anchor

point could cause material from the anti-rotation bracket or the seatbelt cover housing to be pinched between the washer and the anchor bolt shoulder. If this occurs, rotation of the buckle assembly through its allowable arc could be eliminated, or the anchor bolt could eventually loosen.

October 13, 2000 - Nissan determined that a safety related defect may exist and therefore decided to conduct a voluntary recall campaign.

The manufacturer of the seatbelt buckle assembly is:

Autoliv ASP
5851 West 80th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1321

Phone: (317) 704-3486

7. Description of Corrective Action:

No potentially affected vehicles have been recalled and dealers have been advised to place affected units on a sales hold until they are repaired. Subject vehicles held at Nissan dealers will have the front seatbelt buckle assemblies replaced.

8. Copy of Notices:

Copies of all notices will be provided to NHTSA as they become available.

NISSAN NET BROADCAST MESSAGE

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE - ***VEHICLE SALES HOLD*******

ATTENTION - DEALER PRINCIPALS, SALES, SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGERS

NISSAN IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT A SAFETY RECALL INVOLVING 2001 MODEL YEAR QUEST VEHICLES. ON SOME VEHICLES THE BOLTS SECURING THE FRONT SEAT BELT BUCKLES MAY LOOSEN WHICH COULD RESULT IN REDUCED OCCUPANT PROTECTION IN A CRASH. NISSAN WILL BE PROVIDING A REPAIR PROCEDURE TO REPLACE THE SEAT BELT BUCKLE ASSEMBLIES ON THE AFFECTED VEHICLES.

******* NOTE: THIS IS A NEW CAMPAIGN AND IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE RECENT NISSAN NET MESSAGE REGARDING THE SEAT BELT BUCKLE CAMPAIGN FOR THE 2000 MODEL YEAR QUEST *******

*******THE FOLLOWING VIN RANGE IS AFFECTED*****
4N2XN11T*1D-800036 TO 4N2XN11T*1D-803826**

INITIAL ESTIMATES INDICATE A TOTAL OF LESS THAN 150 VEHICLES IN DEALER INVENTORY NATIONWIDE.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THAT NEW VEHICLES IN DEALER INVENTORY WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF A SAFETY RECALL MUST BE CORRECTED PRIOR TO SALE. FAILURE TO DO SO CAN RESULT IN CIVIL PENALTIES BY THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION. DEALERS ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THEY MUST NOT RETAIL OR LEASE ANY OF THE AFFECTED VEHICLES UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN CORRECTED. USE SERVICE COMM TO CONFIRM IF A SPECIFIC VEHICLE IN YOUR INVENTORY IS AFFECTED BY THIS CAMPAIGN (B0091).

DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, YOU WILL RECEIVE PARTS AND REPAIR PROCEDURES TO CORRECT THE AFFECTED VEHICLES. UPON COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR, THE VEHICLES CAN BE RETAILED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE SAFETY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION OF NISSAN OWNERS.

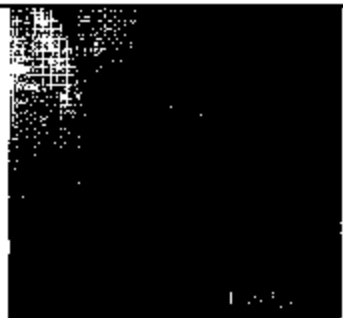

**NISSAN PARTS AND SERVICE OPERATIONS
10/13/2000**

**DRAFT Technical Service Bulletin**

PROCESS NAME	2001 QUEST FRONT SEATBELT BUCKLE REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTION				
VEHICLE AFFECTED:	01.0 MY	V41 QUEST	4N2ZN1*T*1D	800036	to 803826
CLAIM DATA:	Camp ID	OP CODE	FRT	DESCRIPTION	
	B0091	B00910	0.4H	Remove and Replace 1 st row seatbelt buckles	

The following is a step-action instruction:

**REPLACEMENT 1st ROW (VCP /sunroof models):**

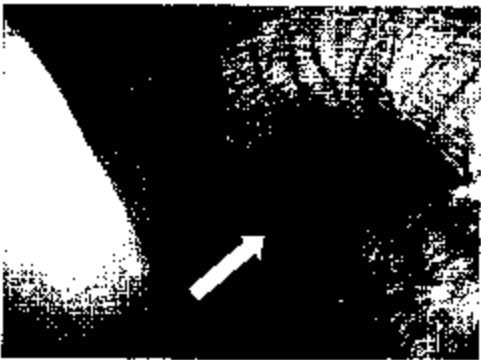

STEP	INSTRUCTION	NEXT	ILLUSTRATION / REFERENCE
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHECK VIN AGAINST CAMPAIGN RANGE USING SERVICE COMM. 	GO TO STEP 2	 <p>This Type Starts at Step No. 6</p>
2	<p>Remove the (2) bolts at the base of the VCP. Tilt the VCP up and slide it toward the rear of the vehicle slightly to release</p> <p>Place a clean shop towel to protect the front lower edge of the VCP from being damaged by its bracket. Tilt the VCP up to provide access to the seat belt bolt.</p>	GO TO STEP 3	



DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (continued)

2001 QUEST 1st ROW SEATBELT REPLACEMENT

Rev:01, 10/16/00 Page 2 of 6


<p>3</p>	<p>Remove the finisher (plug) covering the passenger's seat belt buckle retaining bolt and remove the buckle.</p> <p>Install the replacement seatbelt buckle and torque to: <u>25.1 - 33.9 ft-lb.</u></p> <p><i>CONFIRM @ 20 degree back and forth movement of the belt without turning or loosening the bolt and replace the finisher cap.</i></p>	<p>GO TO STEP 4</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Disconnect the electrical connector underneath the driver's side seat.</p> <p>Remove the finisher (plug) covering the driver's seat belt buckle retaining bolt and remove the buckle.</p> <p>Install the replacement seatbelt buckle and torque to: <u>25.1 - 33.9 ft-lb.</u></p> <p>Install the replacement seatbelt buckle. Reconnect the electrical connector underneath the driver's side seat. Use care to assure proper routing of the electrical cable to avoid pinching and sharp surfaces. Reconnect the cable under the driver's seat.</p> <p><i>CONFIRM @ 20 degree back and forth movement of the belt without turning or loosening the bolt and replace the finisher cap.</i></p>	<p>GO TO STEP 5</p>	



DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (continued)

2001 QUEST 1st ROW SEATBELT REPLACEMENT

Rev:01, 10/16/00 Page 3 of 6

<p>5</p>	<p>Reposition VCP and install (2) securing bolts.</p> <p>Installation is complete – Go to Step 13 for QC Checks</p>	<p>GO TO STEP 13</p>	
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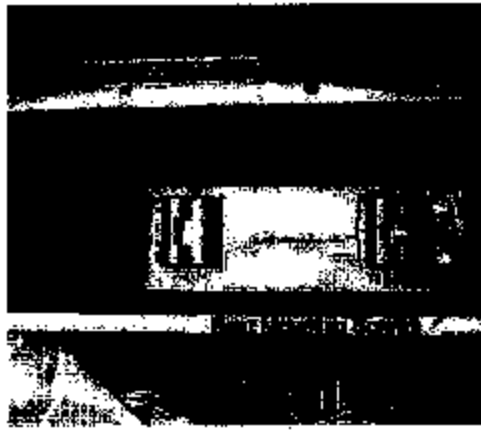


DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (continued)

2001 QUEST 1st ROW SEATBELT REPLACEMENT

Rev:01, 10/16/00 Page 4 of 6

REPLACEMENT 1st ROW (FES models):


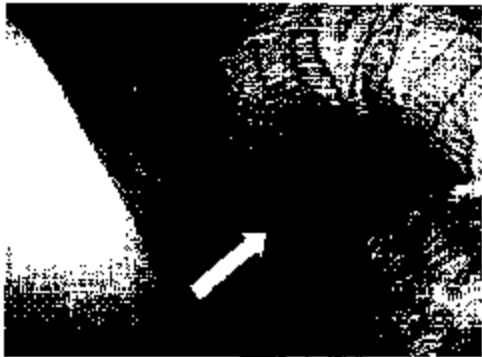
6	<p>Remove the security bolt from the VCP module.</p> 	GO TO STEP 7	
7	<p>Remove the VCP from the console and set it aside..</p>	GO TO STEP 8	
8	<p>Using a 7mm socket and extension, remove (2) rear mounting bolts.</p>	GO TO STEP 9	



DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (continued)

2001 QUEST 1st ROW SEATBELT REPLACEMENT

Rev:01, 10/16/00 Page 5 of 6


9	<p>Lift out the rubber mat covering the (2) front mounting bolts and remove them with a 7mm socket.</p> <p>Carefully lift the console out of the way.</p>	GO TO STEP 10	
10	<p>Remove the finisher (plug) covering the passenger's seat belt buckle retaining bolt and remove the buckle.</p> <p>Install the replacement seatbelt buckle and torque to: <u>25.1 ~ 33.9 ft-lb.</u></p> <p><i>CONFIRM @ 20 degree back and forth movement of the belt without turning or loosening the bolt and replace the finisher cap.</i></p>	GO TO STEP 11	



DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN (continued)

2001 QUEST 1st ROW SEATBELT REPLACEMENT

Rev:01, 10/16/00 Page 6 of 6

11	<p>Disconnect the electrical connector underneath the driver's side seat.</p> <p>Remove the finisher (plug) covering the driver's seat belt buckle retaining bolt and remove the buckle.</p> <p>Install the replacement seatbelt buckle. Use care to assure proper routing of the electrical cable to avoid pinching and sharp surfaces. Reconnect the cable under the driver's seat.</p> <p>Torque the buckle retaining bolt to: <u>25.1 ~ 33.9 ft-lb.</u></p> <p><i>CONFIRM @ 20 degree back and forth movement of the belt without turning or loosening the bolt</i> and replace the finisher cap.</p>	GO TO STEP 12	
12	<p>Reposition console and install (4) securing bolts.</p> <p>Install the rubber mat covering the (2) front mounting bolts.</p> <p>Snap the VCP into position and re-install the security bolt.</p>	GO TO STEP 13	
13	<p>CONFIRM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correct Trim color• 20 degree back and forth movement of the belt without turning or loosening the bolt• Finisher Caps Installed• Rubber Mat Installed (FBS only)• Security Screw Installed (FBS only)• Proper operation of "Fasten Seatbelt" dash lamp• Power to VCP or FBS unit (turn "ON" and check for power light then turn "OFF")	end	