



**NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

01V-282

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August 30, 2001

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 will be initiated and your office provided with the notices. Nissan currently plans to initiate the campaign in September 2001.

Because the Agency has not specified whether the TREAD Act would require a report of the same recall in a foreign country that is simultaneously being conducted in the United States, we note that a recall campaign will also be conducted in Australia and Canada for the same matter.

Very truly,

Frank D. Slaveter  
Corporate Manager,  
Technical Compliance

Encl.

**DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT****1. Manufacturer:**

Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.

**2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

2001 model year Nissan Pathfinder vehicles manufactured from December 20, 2000 through June 8, 2001 and 2001 model year Infiniti QX4 vehicles manufactured from January 8, 2001 through June 8, 2001. Vehicles manufactured after this date are not affected and no other Nissan models are affected.

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

Approximately 31,000

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

Approximately 5 percent.

**5. Description of the Defect:**

Some of the brackets used to attach the two gas struts to the rear door (hatch) may not have been made to specification. At high ambient temperature, the increase in gas pressure in the struts may cause one or both brackets to bend resulting in the strut(s) detaching from the bracket(s) when opening or closing the rear door. If both struts detach from the brackets, the door will rapidly fall down and possibly strike someone.

**6. Chronology of Principal Events**

March 17, 2001 – Nissan received a report concerning rattling noise in Pathfinder vehicles sold in the Middle East due to rear door gas struts detaching from the bracket on the door.

April – June 2001 – Nissan conducted an investigation of the incident and determined it was occurring because the bracket was bending due to the fact it was not made to specification.

June 8, 2001 – Nissan implemented a countermeasure in production in order to prevent rattling incidents due to a rear door gas strut detaching from the bracket.

**June – August 2001 – Nissan continued its investigation to determine if there was any safety issue concerning this incident.**

**August 24, 2001 – Nissan completed its investigation and determined that a safety related defect may exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.**

**The manufacturer of the bracket for the gas strut is:**

**Stabilus  
2-15-1 Kohnan  
Minato-ku  
Tokyo 108-8031 Japan**

**7. Description of Corrective Action:**

**All owners of potentially affected vehicles will be notified in September 2001. The brackets for the struts will be replaced with new ones.**

**8. Copy of Notices:**

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