



NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

September 5, 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:

On September 1, Nissan learned of NHTSA's Consumer Advisory concerning certain Firestone tires not included in that company's voluntary recall. The advisory included tires originally installed on a small number of 1991-1994 Nissan Pickup Trucks.

As a result of this advisory, Nissan took several follow-up actions. It issued the enclosed news release and sent the release, along with other materials, to Nissan dealers. Copies of these materials are also enclosed for your information.

Customer safety and satisfaction are our highest priorities. As you will note, Nissan has elected to arrange for replacements for the original equipment tires on the affected 1991-1994 Nissan Pickup Trucks if a Nissan customer does not receive satisfactory assistance from Firestone. This is to assure customer satisfaction.

Very truly,

Frank D. Slaveter, Corporate Manager
Technical Compliance

Cc: Rosalyn Millman

Encl.



For Immediate Release

NISSAN COMMENTS ON NHTSA'S CONSUMER ADVISORY (NOT A RECALL)

CARSON, Calif. (Sept. 1, 2000) – Today, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a consumer advisory recommending that owners of vehicles with certain models and sizes of Firestone tires not already being recalled by Firestone take a number of actions to assure their safety, based on NHTSA's analysis of Firestone's data.

NHTSA's consumer advisory includes aftermarket, replacement Firestone tires as well as original equipment tires on three vehicles, including one tire which was manufactured at Firestone's Decatur, Ill. Plant and installed as original equipment on a limited number of 1991-94 Nissan pickup trucks as listed below:

Tire line	Size/Description/DOT Information	Plant Code (1st 2 digits)	Original Installation
ATX	31x10.50R15LT Original tires have black lettering on both sides Last DOT digits: 1,2,3 or 4	VD (Decatur, Ill.)	1991-94 Nissan Pickup Truck SE 4x4 with optional Sport Package

It is important to note that NHTSA's investigation is on-going and that no Nissan vehicles are affected by the Firestone recall. Although the Firestone recall was implemented as a result of a high rate of tire tread separations, Nissan has received no such reports on the tires installed on the 1991-1994 pickup truck. Nissan also believes that few of the original tires on these Nissan pickup trucks remain on the road due to the age of the tires.

The Firestone recall includes Ford and Mazda trucks and sport utility vehicles equipped with Firestone Radial ATX and Radial ATX II tires in size P235/75R15 and Wilderness AT tires in size

P235/75R15 produced at the Decatur, Ill., plant. Nissan does not offer these tires on any of its vehicles now, nor has it used these tires as original equipment in the past.

Customer safety and satisfaction continue to be the highest priorities at Nissan. Nissan urges all consumers to properly care for tires and to maintain proper tire inflation according to the specifications on the vehicle tire placard and in owner's manuals. Although Nissan only learned about NHTSA's expanded investigation today, Nissan will work closely with NHTSA, Bridgestone/Firestone, our dealers and, most importantly, our customers as the government's investigation continues.

If any Nissan customer has a question regarding their vehicle's Firestone tires, Nissan recommends that they contact Firestone's toll-free customer assistance number at 1-800-465-1904. Customers also may call Nissan's consumer affairs number at 1-800-NISSAN-1. If a Nissan customer does not receive satisfactory assistance from Firestone in replacing their **original equipment tires** on 1991-1994 Nissan pickup truck SE 4x4 (with optional sport package), Nissan will offer replacement tires at no cost to the consumer, as an expression of Nissan's goodwill and to assure customer satisfaction.

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at **www.nissandriven.com** or contact the corporate media line at 310-771-5631.

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Contact: Scott Vazin at 310/771-3455 or Fred Standish at 248/488-4227

(Or visit the Nissan Online News Bureau at **www.nissannews.com**)

September 5, 2000

To: All Nissan Dealer Principals & Service Managers

Subject: NHTSA Consumer Advisory regarding Firestone Tires

Please read the attached news release that was sent via our newswire service to national media today. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a consumer advisory regarding Firestone tires that were original equipment on a small number of 1991-1994 Nissan pickup trucks.

NHTSA's consumer advisory includes aftermarket, replacement Firestone tires as well as original equipment tires on three vehicles, including one tire which was manufactured at Firestone's Decatur, Ill. plant and installed as original equipment on a limited number of 1991-94 Nissan pickup trucks as listed below:

Tire line	Size/Description/DOT Information	Plant Code (1st 2 digits)	Original Installation
ATX	31x10.50R15LT Original tires have black lettering on both sides Last DOT digits: 1,2,3 or 4	VD (Decatur, Ill.)	1991-94 Nissan Pickup Truck SE 4x4 with optional Sport Package

However, please pay special attention to the first paragraph on the second page of the news release that states, "If a Nissan customer does not receive satisfactory assistance from Firestone in replacing their original installation tires from a 1991-1994 Nissan pickup truck SE 4X4 with optional sport package, any local Nissan dealer will offer replacement tires at no cost to the customer." Here is what you should do if a customer asks for a replacement:

1. Confirm the vehicle is a 1991-1994 Nissan Pickup Truck SE 4x4 equipped with the optional sport package (31x10.50R15LT tires).
2. Confirm that the tires are original equipment tires. To confirm this, check the lettering on BOTH SIDES of the tires – original tires have black lettering on BOTH SIDES.

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3. Confirm the tires are within the affected range. To do this, record the 10-digit DOT code off each tire. Examples of this code include:
DOT VDHLLPM046 -NOT AFFECTED
DOT VDHLLA16081 AFFECTED
Affected tires have a code: starting with "VD" in the first two spaces, and a final digit of either 1,2,3 or 4.
4. If the tires are affected, call the Warranty Call Center at 1-800-258-7008 and select "APPROVAL OPTION". The following information will be required for approval:
 - VIN
 - DOT Code (s) from tire (s)
5. After obtaining approval, procure the following approved replacement tires from the respective local tire store:
 - Bridgestone Desert Dueler HT (31x10.50R15LT)
Note: These tires may also be available at your local Sears store.
 - General Grabber AP (31x10.50R15LT)

Nissan North America, Inc.