

NISSAN

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

November 12, 2003

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office
18501 South Figueroa St.
Gardena, California 90248-4600
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 191
Gardena, California 90248-0191
Telephone: 310.832.8111

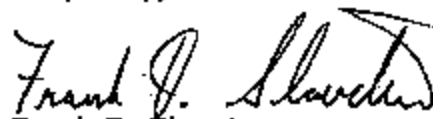
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Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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 begin owner notification on December 15, 2003.

Very truly,


Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

03V-477 ② of ③

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

2000 through 2002 model year Nissan Sentra vehicles produced from January 20, 2000 to July 19, 2002 and equipped with the QG18DE engine and 2002 through 2003 model year Sentra vehicles produced from September 27, 2001 to March 25, 2003 and equipped with QR25DE engine. Other Nissan and Infiniti models do not use the same ECM.

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

Approximately 276,000

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

The foam material used for the interior lining of the ECM box out-gasses sulfur as it cures. If one of the resistors inside the Engine Control Module (ECM) has a crack on the surface coating, the gas may cause corrosion of the resistor. This could cause the Malfunction Indicator Light to come on, poor drivability (idle instability, poor acceleration), or the engine to stop running without warning during vehicle operation.

The name and address of the manufacturer of the ECM is:

Hitachi Automotive Products (USA) Inc.
4421 Highway 81
North Anderson, South Carolina 29622

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

October 2002 - January 2003 - Nissan received reports regarding the Malfunction Indicator Light coming on for the front or rear oxygen sensor where the sensor was subsequently determined to be okay.

January - February 2003 - Nissan received reports of poor drivability and stalling.

February – October 2003 - Nissan conducted an investigation to determine the cause of the incidents and the risk to motor vehicle safety.

November 5, 2003 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect may exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan plans to begin notifying owners of potentially affected vehicles on December 15, 2003. Nissan will remove the inside lining material from the ECM box.

8. Copy of Notices:

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