

# NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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December 5, 2003

03V-511 ① of ③

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 January 19, 2004.

Very truly,



Frank D. Slaveter  
Senior Manager,  
Technical Compliance

Encl.

## **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.

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2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Nissan Hypermini EV vehicles produced from February 20, 1999 (start of production) to April 9, 2003 (end of production). No other Nissan or Infiniti models use the same transverse link (lower control arm).

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

70 vehicles.

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

The front suspension transverse link's ball joint bracket may break from stress concentration at a notch created by surface roughness and the shape of the material cut-line.

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

September 30, 2003 - Nissan received some reports of transverse link breaking.

September-November, 2003 - An investigation was conducted to determine the cause of the incident and the potential risk to safety.

November 28, 2003 - Nissan completed its investigation and determined that a safety related defect might exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. **Description of Corrective Action:**

All owners of potentially affected vehicles will be notified. Nissan plans to begin notifying owners of potentially affected vehicles on January 19, 2004.

This campaign does not include a plan for reimbursement since all of these vehicles are electric vehicles leased directly by Nissan to various

government agencies and utilities in order to comply with California emissions regulations and Nissan has been responsible for all repairs.

8. Copy of Notices:

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