

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office
18801 South Figueroa St.
Gardena, California 90248-4500
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 191
Gardena, California 90248-0191
Telephone: 310.592.3111

May 5, 2004

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

04V-230
(3 pages)

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 by June 30, 2004.

Very truly,



Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

End.

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DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

1999-2003 model year Nissan Frontier vehicles equipped with a six cylinder engine and produced from June 11, 1998 (start of production) to March 28, 2003. 2000-2003 model year Nissan Xterra vehicles equipped with a four or six cylinder engine produced from March 4, 1999 (start of production) to March 15, 2003. Vehicles manufactured after these dates are not affected and no other Nissan vehicles use the same fuel-sending unit.

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

Approximately 586,196.

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

The fuel pump terminal on the fuel-sending unit can develop a crack in its plastic molding. A crack in the plastic will not itself affect the proper operation of the fuel-sending unit. However, in areas of the country which use heavy concentrations of road salt in the winter, if road salt enters the crack, the terminal strip will corrode and eventually the terminal strip could break due to corrosion. This will cause the fuel pump to stop operating and will result in not being able to start the engine or cause the engine to stop running without warning during vehicle operation.

The name and address of the fuel-sending unit supplier is:

Kantus Corporation
201 Garrett Parkway
Lewisburg, Tennessee, 37091 U.S.A.

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

March - April 2003 - Nissan received reports of the engine not starting or stopping running possibly related to the fuel-sending unit.

March- Aug. 2003 - Nissan collected fuel-sending units from incident vehicles in the field to investigate this incident.

Sep. - Nov. 2003- Nissan and the supplier conducted testing of the fuel-sending units to determine why cracking of the plastic molding for the terminal was occurring. The investigation focused on the thickness of the plastic molding and whether this was the root cause of the cracking.

Dec. 2003- April 2004- Nissan determined that the cause of the terminal corrosion was road salt. Nissan conducted an assessment to determine the potential risk to safety.

April 28, 2004 - Nissan completed its investigation and determined that a safety related defect may exist and that a voluntary recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

All owners of potentially affected vehicles will be notified and requested to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer. In those states where heavy use of road salt can occur in the winter, the dealer will replace the fuel-sender unit. These states include Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia and Wisconsin. In the other states, the dealer will inspect the fuel-sender terminal for corrosion. If corrosion is present, the dealer will replace the fuel-sending unit. If there is no corrosion, the dealer will apply sealant to the terminal housing to help prevent road salt from entering in the event the vehicle is driven in one of the above states in the winter. Nissan plans to begin notifying owners of potentially affected vehicles by June 29, 2004.

8. Copy of Notices:

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