

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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December 8, 2004

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

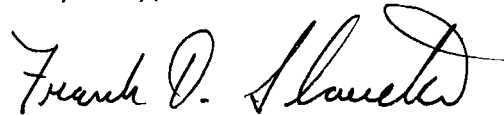
*04V-581
(3 pages)*

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 plans to mail owner notifications on January 3, 2005.

We do not plan to put a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as the basic warranty coverage is three years/36,000 miles and these vehicles were first offered for sale in November 2003.

Very truly,



Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

2004 model year Nissan Xterra vehicles produced from July 13 to 20, 2004 and equipped with a Nissan accessory tow hitch installed at the post-production vehicle processing center. Only vehicles produced during this period may have the described defect and no other Nissan models use the same hitch.

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

131

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

The worker responsible for installing the Nissan tow hitch on vehicles produced during the above production period may not have tightened the attachment bolts to the proper specification.

The manufacturer of the hitch is:

TKA Fabco
850 Division Road
Windsor, Ontario
Canada N9A6P7

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

August 2, 2004 – Quality control inspection on tow hitch installation identified an under-torqued bolt.

August – November 2004 – An investigation was conducted to determine the affected vehicle population and whether a potential risk to safety existed.

December 1, 2004 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect might exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan plans to notify owners of potentially affected vehicles on January 3, 2005. The hitch attaching bolts will be torqued to the proper specification.

8. Copy of Notices:

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