



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

OCT 6 2005

FRANK SLAVETER  
SENIOR MANAGER, TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE  
NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.  
P. O. BOX 191  
GARDENA CA 90248-4504

NVS-215  
05V-458

Subject: TOW HITCH ASSEMBLIES

Dear MR. SLAVETER:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
NISSAN/XTERRA/2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-458

**Mfg's Report Date:** September 30, 2005

**Components:** TRAILER HITCHES

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 12,500

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH A NISSAN ACCESSORY TOW HITCH, INADEQUATE QUALITY OF SOME WELDED JOINTS IN THE HITCH ASSEMBLY MAY RESULT IN SEPARATION OF THE HITCH FROM THE VEHICLE WHEN BEING USED TO TOW.

**Consequence:**

THIS COULD RESULT IN THE TRAILER SEPARATING FROM THE VEHICLE AND CAUSE A CRASH WITHOUT WARNING.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE TOW HITCHES. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 24, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT NISSAN AT 1-800-647-7261.

**Notes:**

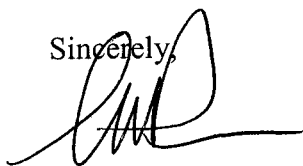
CUSTOMERS CAN CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin on October 24, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2006.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement