

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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2005 OCT -5 A 9:06

September 30, 2005

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

05V-458
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Medford:

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 October 24, 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 January 2005.

Very truly,



Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

2005 model year Nissan Xterra vehicles produced from January 6, 2005 to September 14, 2005 that are equipped with a Nissan accessory tow hitch. These hitches are installed at either a Nissan post-production vehicle processing center or are sold as an accessory by Nissan dealers. Only vehicles produced during this period may have a defective tow hitch installed and no other Nissan models use the same hitch.

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

Approximately 12,500 hitch assemblies installed on the subject vehicles are potentially affected.

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

Unknown

5. **Description of the Defect:**

Inadequate quality of some welded joints in the hitch assembly which may result in separation of the hitch from the vehicle when being used to tow.

The manufacturer of the hitch is:

Valley Automotive
32501 Dequindre
Madison Heights, MI 48071

6. **Chronology of Principal Events**

September 6, 2005 – Nissan received a claim concerning an alleged hitch failure and initiated an investigation.

September 6 – 22, 2005 – An investigation was conducted to determine the cause and scope of the hitch assembly failure.

September 23, 2005 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect might exist and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan notified dealers on September 23, 2005 of this defect, instructing them not to sell any vehicles equipped with this hitch and not to sell any of the hitches for these vehicles. Nissan plans to notify owners of potentially affected vehicles on October 24, 2005 to advise them not to use the hitch on their vehicle and that they will be notified when a new hitch is available. A second owner notification will be sent at that time.

8. Copy of Notices:

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