

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office
18501 South Figueroa St.
Gardena, California 90248-4500
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 191
Gardena, California 90248-0191
Telephone: 310.532.3111

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SAFETY ASSURANCE

February 10, 2006

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

06V-046
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith

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 notify dealers by February 24, 2006 and begin notifying owners on February 27, 2006.

Very truly,



Frank D. Slaveter
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Nissan Altima vehicles manufactured at the Canton Mississippi plant from January 24 to 27, 2006.

Nissan Altima vehicles manufactured at the Smyrna Tennessee plant from January 24 to 26, 2006

Nissan Maxima vehicles manufactured at the Smyrna Tennessee plant from January 24 to 26, 2006.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 759

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

The die used for stamping the rear suspension subframe was out of specification during three days of production. As a result, the thickness of the attachment bracket for the rear lower link may be less than the minimum specification. This could result in a crack forming in the attachment bracket. If a crack propagates through the bracket, the rear lower link may separate from the bracket. The coil spring will stay on the rear lower link and push it outboard so that toe-in of the rear suspension will generally be maintained and there is no significant effect on vehicle stability. However, there may be severe driving conditions under which stability of the vehicle is not maintained leading to a loss of control of the vehicle.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January 25, 2006 – During quality audit inspection of vehicles at the assembly plant, cracks were discovered in the mounting brackets on the rear suspension subframe on some subject vehicles.

January 25 – February 3, 2006 – An investigation was conducted to determine the scope and root cause of the subframe cracking.

February 3, 2006 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect exists and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified. The lot number of the rear suspension subframe will be inspected and the subframe replaced if the lot number is in the range during which the potentially affected subframes were manufactured. Nissan plans to notify dealers by February 24, 2006 and begin notifying owners on February 27, 2006.

8. Copy of Notices:

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