

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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February 12, 2008

08V-066 (3 pages)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215) 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590

Dear Associate Administrator:

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 will be provided with the notices. Nissan plans to notify dealers on February 14, 2008 and notify owners on February 19, 2008.

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 because this defect would not have been previously remedied at an owner's expense.

Very truly,

Frank D. Slaveter Senior Manager, Technical Compliance

Encl.

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION RECALL MGMT DIV.

### **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

## 1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.

### 2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

2009 Model Year Nissan Murano vehicles manufactured from Start of Production to January 28, 2008; and 2008 Model Year Infiniti EX35 vehicles manufactured from Start of Production to January 24, 2008. No other Nissan or Infiniti models are affected because the supplier of their Airbag Control Unit (ACU) is different.

ACU supplier's name, address, and phone number:

Autoliv Japan Ltd.
Autoliv Electronics Asia Pacific
9F Nisso 13 Bldg.
2-5-1 Shinyokohama, Kohoku-ku
Yokohama, 222-0033
TEL +81-45-475-3501

# 3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 16,365 vehicles total: 11,511 Murano; 4,854 EX35.

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

Unknown

### 5. Description of the Defect:

If the vehicle battery becomes significantly discharged and the voltage in the electrical system drops (because, for example, the ignition is left in the "on" position for a significant length of time without the engine running), the Airbag Control Unit (ACU) is designed to suppress the passenger air bag and turn on the passenger air bag status light. When the battery recharges and correct voltage is restored, the ACU is designed to reactivate the passenger air bag system.

Due to incorrect software programming in the affected vehicles, the ACU may not reactivate the passenger air bag as designed. This can result in the

passenger air bag being suppressed without lighting the warning indicator and the air bag status light, and the air bag may not inflate in a crash in which it was designed to do so.

## 6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January 18, 2008 - Nissan conducted a frontal impact test on a MY09 Nissan Murano. The passenger air bag did not deploy as designed. Nissan initiated an investigation to identify the cause.

January 22, 2008 - NHTSA conducted a NCAP frontal impact test on a 2008 model year Infiniti EX35 vehicle in which the passenger air bag did not deploy during the crash.

January 22 - February 6, 2008 - Nissan continued the investigation to identify the cause, the potential risk to safety, the affected vehicle population, and the remedy.

February 6, 2008 - 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 ACU will be reprogrammed to correct this issue.

## 8. Copy of Notices:

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