

NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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08V-464
(3 pages)

September 4, 2008

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

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 September 15, 2008 and begin notifying owners on that same date.

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 North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

2009 Model Year Nissan Altima vehicles manufactured at the Canton, Mississippi plant from July 24, 2008 through August 14, 2008. Vehicles manufactured outside of these dates and at a Smyrna, Tennessee plant are not affected. No other Nissan models are affected.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Thirty eight or less, as this issue involves not more than 38 wheels. However, 3,403 vehicles will need to be inspected to identify and replace the 38 wheels.

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

It is unknown how many out of the thirty eight wheels contain the issue described below.

5. Description of the Defect:

Thirty eight 16-inch alloy wheels may have been manufactured out of specification. Specifically, the nut seat chamfer angle and lug hole diameter may be greater than specification, potentially causing reduced torque tension. This could cause one or more of the five lug nuts to become loose.

The name and address of the manufacturer of the subject wheel is:

Dicastal Wheel Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
No.95 Bei Huan Road,
Hai Gang District, Qin Huangdao City, He Bei Province, China 066003

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

August 14, 2008 – Nissan received initial information that the subject wheels did not meet a torque tension specification.

August 14 to 22, 2008 – Nissan conducted a production, inventory, and dealer inventory inspection to further investigate this issue.

August 28, 2008 – Nissan determined that a safety 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 vehicles will be inspected. If the affected wheel is found, it will be replaced with a new one that has been manufactured to the correct specification.

8. Copy of Notices:

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