



**NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Corporate Headquarters  
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Franklin, TN 37068

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Telephone: 615.725.1000

**08V-690**  
**(4 pages)**

December 18, 2008

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
Room W48-302  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sir:

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 January 20, 2009 and begin owner notification on January 26, 2009. We will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy.

Very truly,

*for* John Gibbons  
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:

2005-2009 model year Nissan Pathfinder, Frontier and Xterra vehicles manufactured between June 2004 (start of production) to November 19, 2008. Vehicles manufactured after these dates are not affected because they are equipped with a countermeasured part. The configuration and placement of the sensor is unique to these vehicles.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 114,424 Pathfinder vehicles; 62,489 Frontier vehicles; and 65,807 Xterra vehicles (242,720 total).

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

In those areas of the country which use heavy concentrations of road salt in the winter, a mixture of snow/water and salt can enter into the front crash zone sensor ("CZS") housing during continuous driving on roads with a heavy concentration of road salt. If this occurs, the CZS may internally rust resulting in a signal interruption. If this happens, the red air bag warning light will illuminate to alert the vehicle operator. This issue could result in the non-deployment of the driver and passenger front air bags in a crash.

The name and address of the CZS supplier is:

Calsonic Kansei North America, Inc.  
One Calsonic Way, /P.O.Box 350 Shelbyville,  
Tennessee 37162 U.S.A.  
TEL.1-931-684-4490

The country of origin of the CZS is:

Calsonic Kansei Corporation  
Kodama Plant  
540-7 Kyoei, Kodama-cho, Honjo-city, Saitama, Japan  
TEL.81-495-72-4321  
Zip.367-0206

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

May 2008 to June 2008 - Nissan received warranty reports of the air bag warning light flashing in the subject vehicles. Subsequent inspection of these vehicles revealed multiple error codes related to the front CZS. Nissan began to study the cause and scope of the issue and implemented a parts collection program to obtain sensor field samples.

July 2008 to September 2008 – Nissan began to receive sensors from the field. Engineers inspected and analyzed the returned sensors to determine the cause of the codes. The inspection and analyses revealed that many of the returned sensors from the northern regions of the country that heavily use road salt experienced corrosion.

October 2008 to December 2008 - To study this further, Nissan conducted a state by state analysis of warranty data and owner reports and studied sensor placement relative to the vehicle architecture to ascertain the scope of the potentially affected vehicle population and occurrence rates.

December 12, 2008 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect exists in certain vehicles located in some northern states that heavily use road salt and that a recall campaign should be conducted in those areas.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of vehicles in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri and the District of Columbia will be requested to take their vehicle to a Nissan or Infiniti dealer. The dealer will replace the front CZS with a countermeasured sensor.

Owners in the other states will receive extended warranty coverage for the sensor to 10 years. These owners will be notified of the warranty extension by mail and receive a sticker to place in their warranty booklet explaining the extended warranty coverage.

8. Copy of Notices:

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