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NISSAN

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Headquarters
One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37068

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068-5001

Telephone: 615.725.1000

10V-075
(4 Pages)

February 26, 2010

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 initial owner notification to begin on March 22, 2010. We will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy.

Very truly,

John Gibbons
Senior Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Model	Dates of Manufacture
MY 2006 Nissan Frontier, Xterra and Pathfinder	January 23, 2006 to March 16, 2006
MY 2008 Nissan Frontier, Xterra and Pathfinder	October 24, 2007 to January 28, 2008

The affected vehicle production range was determined based on the production range of the affected part that may have been improperly manufactured. Vehicles manufactured prior to and after these dates are not affected.

The fuel tank supplier is:

TI Automotive
1200 Baker Drive
Ossian, IN 46777
(260) 622-7900

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 80,689. The approximate number by Model and Model Year follows:

Model	Number of Vehicles
MY 2006 Frontier	16,727
MY 2006 Xterra	8,320
MY 2006 Pathfinder	14,086
MY 2008 Frontier	16,515
MY 2008 Xterra	12,554
MY 2008 Pathfinder	12,487

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

The molded fuel tank shells are approximately 1mm thinner than specification in the area under the sender unit. This allows the tank floor shape to deform, causing the fuel sender unit to skew. The skewed float arm angle could then cause interference with an embossment molded into the tank shell, causing the instrument panel fuel gauge to show that the vehicle has approximately one quarter tank when the fuel tank is empty.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

December 2009: Nissan noticed an elevated rate of customer reports and warranty claims indicating that some Pathfinder, Xterra, and Frontier vehicles were running out of gas when the fuel gauge indicated that the vehicle still had a quarter of a tank of gas and began to study the issue.

December 2009 – February 2010:

Nissan conducted a joint investigation with the supplier into the fuel tank manufacturing process. The investigation revealed that during limited production periods at the supplier, the fuel tank shell thickness irregularities were leading to inaccurate fuel gauge readings, including readings showing that the vehicles still had a quarter tank of gas when the tank was empty.

The investigation also revealed that there were previously a small number of reports of inaccurate fuel gauge readings in 2006 due to the thinner tank shells. In response to these reports, the tank supplier incorporated production changes and Nissan issued a TSB to address the limited number of issues that arose in the field.

The updated warranty data was analyzed and broken down by vehicle production month. The analysis confirmed that the issue was limited to vehicles manufactured from January 23, 2006 to March 16, 2006 and from October 24, 2007 to January 28, 2008. The rates of warranty claims and customer reports, however, were now significantly higher than in 2006.

February 22, 2010: Based on this updated warranty analysis and increased rate, Nissan determined that a safety related defect may exist in certain Pathfinder, Xterra, and Frontier vehicles manufactured from January 23, 2006 to March 16, 2006 and from October 24, 2007 to January 28, 2008.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

   Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be promptly notified of the potential fuel gauge inaccuracy and asked to maintain the fuel level in their vehicle so that the fuel gauge reads above the half position. There will be a follow-up notification that will instruct customers to bring their vehicles to Nissan dealers and the fuel level sending unit inside the fuel tank will be replaced with a new one having a modified float arm.

8. Copy of Notices:

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