

**NISSAN****NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**Corporate Headquarters  
333 Commerce Street  
Nashville, TN 37201-1800Mailing Address: P.O. Box 685001  
Franklin, TN 37068-5001

Telephone: 615.725.3111


July 19, 2011

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 notified dealers on July 18, 2011. Nissan plans to begin notifying owners on August 1, 2011. We will not include information in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as these vehicles are under warranty.

Very truly,

John Gibbons  
Senior Manager,  
Technical Compliance

Encl.

## **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain 2011 and 2012 model year Nissan Altima Sedan vehicles manufactured from April 25, 2011 to June 10, 2011 at the Canton, Mississippi plant. No other Nissan or Infiniti models were affected.

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 20,000 Nissan Altima Sedan vehicles

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

Some of the subject vehicles may have been manufactured with transverse link bolts that were not torqued to the proper specification. The transverse link bolt tightening process was moved to a subassembly area where a new process was implemented. During this transition period, a tooling setup error allowed some transverse link bolts to be torqued below specification. This condition could cause the bolt to become loose while the vehicle is being driven creating a rattling noise and vibration. In the unlikely event that the bolt comes out completely, the driver may experience difficulty controlling the direction of the vehicle.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

June 6, 2011 – A front suspension rattle was detected during routine dynamic driving evaluation. It was determined that the rattle was caused by a loose transverse link bolt.

June 2011 to July 2011 – An investigation was conducted to determine the cause, scope and the potential consequences of the issue.

As part of the investigation, a yard audit was performed to check the transverse link bolt torque values of vehicles still at the plant. The audit showed that several vehicles had bolts not torqued to the proper specification. These vehicles were remedied at the plant.

Nissan initially believed that no vehicles with the subject condition had reached customers. However, during the course of the investigation, a dealer inspection was initiated to determine if any subject vehicles made it to the dealers. Since several vehicles were found at dealerships with the subject condition, Nissan decided to expand the potential production range back to the beginning of the new manufacturing process.

In parallel to yard and dealer inspection activities, an analysis of this issue was conducted. Based on engineering judgment, it was determined that if a loose bolt came out, it could affect vehicle handling.

July 13, 2011 – Nissan determined that a safety related defect exists and that a recall campaign should be conducted.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers will be instructed to confirm the proper torque specifications for the transverse link bolts of all vehicles that remain in dealer inventory prior to retail sale.

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer. The transverse link bolts and nuts will be replaced and tightened to the proper torque specification.

8. Copy of Notices:

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