



NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Corporate Office P.O. Box 685001 Franklin, TN 37068-5001

Telephone: 615.725.1000

April 23, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
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 Madam:

We are transmitting the enclosed Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. A voluntary safety recall campaign will be initiated and your office provided with the notices. Nissan plans to notify dealers on April 24, 2013 and begin owner notification on May 3, 2013. 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 covered under warranty.

Very truly,

Donald Neff

Manager,

Technical Compliance

Encl.

## **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

#### 1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

## 2. <u>Vehicles Potentially Involved:</u>

2013 Model Year Nissan Altima sedan vehicles manufactured from March 21, 2012 (start of production) to March 26, 2013 at the Canton, MS plant. Vehicles manufactured after these dates are not affected because the issue was corrected in production on March 26th.

No other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles are affected because the manual assembly operation was unique to this model.

# 3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 123,308

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

Unknown

# 5. <u>Description of the Defect:</u>

Due to a production issue that has since been corrected, the spare tires in some of the potentially affected vehicles may have been under- or over-inflated. In rare instances, the over-inflation may have been significant, which could compromise the structural integrity of the tire unless it is adjusted.

### 6. Chronology of Principal Events:

March 8, 2013 - Nissan received a report from a dealer of a spare tire rapid deflation while stored in the trunk. Nissan initiated an investigation into this report.

March 2013 - Nissan commenced a yard audit and dealer inspection activity to determine if there were any additional incidents. Nissan also contacted the spare tire supplier, Maxxis, and asked it to investigate.

Analysis of the incident spare tire revealed that the tire had been significantly over-inflated, compromising its structural integrity. As a result of the increased temperature in the trunk, combined with the over-inflation condition, the tire lost structural integrity resulting in rapid deflation.

Nissan confirmed that the spare tire inflation machine used in the manufacture of MY 2013 Altima vehicles at the Canton plant had a malfunctioning pressure regulator, and the pressure gauge used to check pressure was not calibrated correctly. These issues were corrected on March 26.

April 2013 - Nissan completed the yard audit activity and identified 512 out of 5,441 vehicles with under- or over- inflated tires.

Concurrently, Nissan evaluated the possible effects of the subject condition on vehicle safety.

April 19, 2013 - Nissan determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a safety recall campaign will be conducted.

# 7. <u>Description of Corrective Action:</u>

Nissan will notify dealers on April 24, 2013. Nissan will notify potentially affected customers on May 3, asking them to bring their vehicles to an authorized Nissan dealer. The dealer will check, and if necessary, adjust the spare tire inflation pressure to specification at no cost to customers for parts or labor. Tire pressures prior to adjustment will be grouped and recorded into certain categories. If after further investigation by Nissan at a future date, the tire pressure in the tire was determined to have exceeded a certain threshold, the spare tire will be replaced at no charge to the customer for parts and labor. With respect to any tires that are replaced, Nissan will comply with the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6(c)(9).

### 8. Copy of Notices:

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