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NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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NISSAN

March 25, 2014

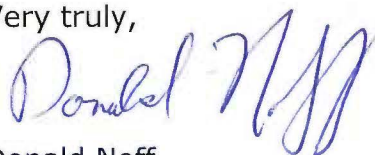
Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Room W48-302
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

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 March 26, 2014 and will notify all affected owners within 60 days.

We will not include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy as the subject vehicles are under warranty.

Very truly,



Donald Neff
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America, Inc.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain 2013 Model Year Nissan Pathfinder vehicles manufactured from April 18, 2012 (Start of Production) through October 3, 2012.

Nissan Pathfinder vehicles manufactured after this date are not affected because Nissan implemented several production improvements that helped eliminate the issue. Infiniti JX vehicles are not affected because they are equipped with a different CVT transmission with a lower operating pressure.

The hose supplier is:

Valeo Inc.
611 Enon Springs Rd E
Smyrna, TN 37167

(615) 355-0102

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 3,065 vehicles.

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

In some of the subject vehicles, the internal oil cooler (ITOC) hose may detach from the cooler due to inadequate clamping force. If hose detachment occurs, the transmission fluid will begin to leak. If this occurs, the MIL will illuminate on the instrument panel. If the MIL lamp is ignored, the transmission fluid will drain further, resulting in noise and vibration. If this is ignored, eventually the transmission will no longer operate properly

and the vehicle will stop accelerating, which could increase the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

September 29, 2012 – During a routine quality test drive at the Smyrna, TN plant, a cooler hose detached from the radiator of a Pathfinder vehicle. Nissan investigated the incident and implemented a series of production improvements described below. Nissan also began to monitor warranty claims on this issue.

September 29, 2012 – Nissan implemented the first production improvement by cleaning the hose to remove any contamination during the installation process.

October 4, 2012 – An additional production improvement was implemented by adding a second clamp to the ITOC hose.

November 3, 2012 – Nissan improved the control of key dimensions of the bulge diameter on the radiator.

March 2013 – The cooler hose weave angle was changed to further improve the hose clamping force.

Concurrently with the production improvement efforts and warranty monitoring, Nissan studied the effects of a hose detachment. Nissan concluded that there was no fire risk and that if hose detachment did occur, there would be warnings to the vehicle operator and sufficient opportunity to bring the vehicle to a safe stop. Nissan further concluded that if hose detachment were to occur, it would occur at low mileage. Therefore, at that time, Nissan concluded that no field action was necessary and that any potential issues would be addressed through normal warranty repairs.

July, 2013 – Nissan issued a Technical Service Bulletin to help dealers appropriately diagnose and address the issue.

August 29, 2013 – NHTSA opened Preliminary Evaluation ("PE") PE13-029 to investigate the subject condition. Nissan received an Information Request (IR) from NHTSA on September 12, 2013.

September 2013 to November 2013 – Upon receiving the IR, Nissan collected data and exemplar parts to respond to the investigation. Nissan submitted responses to the NHTSA Information Request on November 7 and 22, 2013.

January 8 and February 6, 2014 – Nissan submitted follow up information to NHTSA at its request.

March 5, 2014 – Nissan discussed the issue further with NHTSA via teleconference. At the agency's request, Nissan agreed to further consider the issue with respect to a subset of vehicles subject to PE13-029 that were manufactured prior to the October 4, 2012 production improvement.

March 18, 2014 – Nissan decided to conduct a recall on Pathfinder vehicles produced prior to the October 4, 2012 production improvement.

Although certain Infiniti JX vehicles were covered by PE13-029, they do not need to be recalled because they are equipped with a different CVT transmission with a lower operating pressure.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified within 60 days to take their vehicles to a Nissan dealer. The dealer will install an oil hose repair kit at no charge to owners for parts and labor.

8. Copy of Notices:

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