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### NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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May 15, 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 recall campaign will be initiated and your office provided with the notices. Nissan plans to notify dealers on May 16, 2014 and begin notifying owners the week of May 26<sup>th</sup>.

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 2014 Model Year Nissan LEAF vehicles manufactured at the Smyrna, TN plant from April 15, 2014 through April 24, 2014. LEAF vehicles manufactured before April 15 are not affected. Potentially affected vehicles manufactured after April 24 remained within Nissan's control at the plant. No other Nissan or Infiniti models are affected.

The inverter supplier is:

Calsonic Kansei North America, Inc. 617 Potomac Pl Smyrna, TN 37167 Tel: (615) 459-5525

#### 3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 196 Nissan LEAF vehicles.

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

100%

## 5. Description of the Defect:

Due to an isolated supplier process issue described in greater detail below, a small number of 2014 Model Year LEAF vehicles may have been assembled with an out-of-specification motor control circuit board within the inverter. More specifically, an incorrect comparator on the circuit board has a lower voltage capacity than is required. As a result, a voltage variation that exceeds the maximum component capacity could cause the inverter to stop working and the vehicle to stop running without warning. Depending on driver reaction and circumstances, this condition could increase the risk of a crash.

# 6. Basis for Determination of the Existence of a Defect:

April 29, 2014 – Nissan was notified by the supplier (CKNA) that the motor control circuit board, located inside of the inverter, contained an out-of-specification comparator on vehicles manufactured during the specified timeframe. Nissan initiated a containment action to quarantine the affected vehicles within the plant.

In addition, the supplier quarantined all inverter assemblies and subcomponents at their facility and implemented countermeasures.

April 30, 2014 - Additional quality control measures were implemented to prevent recurrence.

May 1, 2014 – Nissan initiated a supplier audit to determine the root cause, scope and the potential consequence of the issue. The audit revealed a supplier process error that caused the incorrect comparator to be installed onto the circuit boards that were installed on the subject vehicles.

May 5, 2014 – Nissan initiated a dealer quality hold. Separately, Nissan analyzed the potential consequence of the lower voltage capacity comparator on the circuit board.

May 8, 2014 - Nissan determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a recall campaign will be conducted.

# 7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer. The inverter on the affected vehicles will be replaced with a new one at no cost to the owner.

# 8. Copy of Notices:

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