# **NISSAN**

#### NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

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June 25, 2015

Mr. Frank S. Borris II
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-210)
Room W48-302
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Borris:

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 June 24, 2015 and begin owner notifications via first class mail within 60 days.

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,

Donald Neff

Manager,

Technical Compliance

Encl.

#### **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

### 1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Motor Corporation, Ltd. Nissan Mexicana, S.A. de C.V.

# 2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain MY 2014 Nissan Versa Sedan and MY 2013-2014 Nissan Cube and Juke vehicles equipped with Nissan Intelligent Key<sup>®</sup> with Push Button Ignition shown in the table below:

Make/Model	Dates of Manufacture		
MY2014 Nissan Versa Sedan	July 16, 2013 to January 29, 2014		
MY2013-2014 Nissan Cube	July 3, 2013 to October 21, 2013		
MY2013-2014 Nissan Juke	July 3, 2013 to October 22, 2013		

No other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles are affected because they do not contain the same immobilizer antenna.

The immobilizer antenna supplier is:

ALPS ELECTRIC CO., LTD. 1-7, Yukigaya-otsukamachi Ota-ku, Tokyo, 145-8501

Telephone: +81 (3) 3726-1211

# 3. <u>Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:</u>

Approximately 14,595 vehicles:

Make/Model	Total Number of Vehicles		
MY2014 Nissan Versa Sedan	2,203		
MY2013-2014 Nissan Cube	307		
MY2013-2014 Nissan Juke	12,085		

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

Unknown

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

Due to manufacturing issues that have since been corrected, the casting of the immobilizer antenna housing did not meet design specification. As a result, on some of the affected vehicles, the antenna housing can shrink due to environmental exposure to hot temperatures which cause the engine start/stop button to potentially stick inside its housing (see Figure 1).

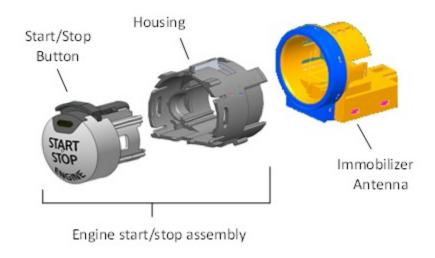


Figure 1 – Engine Start/Stop Assembly and Immobilizer Antenna Diagram

This stuck condition alone does not affect drivability or engine operation. However, in extremely rare instances, the start/stop button can become stuck in a halfway depressed position inside the housing. If the vehicle experiences mild vibrations (but not severe enough to release the button from the halfway position) from uneven road surfaces while in this position, it can cause the electrical components inside the button to contact repeatedly in quick succession which initiates the designed emergency engine shut off procedure (the subject vehicle is designed such that if the start/stop button is pressed three times in rapid succession or the button is continually pressed while driving, the engine will shut off).

If this rare combination of events occurs, the engine may shut off while the vehicle is in motion. If this occurs, it may increase the risk of a crash.

## 6. Chronology of Principal Events:

June 2014 through July 2014 – Nissan identified five warranty claims related to start/stop button operation in the subject vehicles in the U.S. Three of the five reports related to start/stop button issues did not involve operation of the vehicle while in motion. However, two of the warranty claims involved possible engine shut off while the vehicle was in motion. None involved any injuries or vehicle incidents. Nissan began an investigation into the issue and initiated a parts collection activity for the start/stop switch assembly.

July 2014 through December 2014 – Nissan continued to monitor field information and investigate the root cause of the issue, focusing on the immobilizer antenna. Certain parts production improvements were implemented in 2014. Through the rest of the 2014, Nissan identified only four additional warranty claims possibly related to this issue in the U.S. None of the claims involved the engine shutting off while the vehicle was in motion.

January 2015 through May 2015 – Supplier quality audit activities identified that previous production improvements at a different plant unrelated to the subject issue likely reduced the potential for immobilizer antenna to interfere with the start/stop button housing.

Concurrently Nissan continued field monitoring and analysis as to whether the issue could lead to an engine shut-off. This investigation included bench testing to duplicate the issue and further confirmation of production history.

Nissan also identified that a modification of the production die used to mold the start/stop button assembly in May 2013 could have contributed to potential for interference between the inside of the immobilizer antenna and the outside of engine start/stop switch housing.

Throughout this time period, Nissan received only one warranty claim in U.S. possibly related to the subject issue. This claim did not involve engine shut off while the vehicle was in motion.

June 18, 2015 – While Nissan has not observed a defect trend, out of abundance of caution, Nissan decided to conduct a recall campaign to remedy this issue.

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

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to bring their vehicle to a Nissan dealer for repair. The dealer will modify the engine start/stop switch housing to prevent interference from the immobilizer antenna at no charge to the owner for parts or labor.

# 8. Copy of Notices:

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