



Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:
PO Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068

June 13, 2022

Mr. Jeff Giuseppe
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 Mr. Giuseppe:

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.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Swindell".

Will Swindell
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan North America Inc., Smyrna Plant

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain Model Year 2013-2016 Nissan Pathfinder vehicles manufactured from June 20, 2012 (SOP) to July 27, 2016 (EOP) at the Smyrna, TN plant. The subject vehicle range was determined based on the production range of vehicles that might have been manufactured with the subject bell crank assembly.

The name, description and part number of the recalled components are below:

<u>Part Name</u>	<u>Part Description</u>	<u>Part Number(s)</u>
BELL CRANK-HOOD LOCK	Bell Crank Assembly	65603 9UA0A
MALE HOOD LOCK	Hood Latch	65601 3JA1A
COMPLETE CABLE ASSEMBLY	Release Cable Lever Assembly	65621 3KA2A

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 322,671 vehicles may be affected as shown in the table below:

<u>Model Year / Model</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles</u>
MY 2013 Nissan Pathfinder	79,910
MY 2014 Nissan Pathfinder	95,520
MY 2015 Nissan Pathfinder	91,823
MY 2016 Nissan Pathfinder	54,418

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

0.44%

5. Description of the Defect:

On certain Pathfinder vehicles, dust and dirt contamination may accumulate on and around the bell crank lever pivot joint. Over time, the build-up of contamination combined with a lack of proper inspection and maintenance of the bell crank assembly (as described in the Owner's Manual), can create mechanical binding that could cause the lever to remain in the open position after it has been disengaged. In addition, this contamination can scratch the bell crank protective anti-corrosion coating, allowing corrosion of the bare metal in the pivot joint.

The bell crank lever actuates the secondary hood latch. In such cases where the bell crank lever remains in the open position, if the primary hood latch is inadvertently released or the hood is not closed properly after engine service, the secondary hood latch may not hold the hood closed as designed while the vehicle is in motion. If this condition occurs, the hood may open without warning and obstruct the driver's forward view, increasing the risk of crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

The Chronology will be supplemented.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

A remedy plan for all affected vehicles is currently under development. Dealers will be notified on June 24, 2022. Nissan will mail interim notification letters to all affected owners as follows:

- Nissan will mail interim notification letters to a selected sample of 40,000 owners of affected vehicles beginning on June 30, 2022. This interim letter will invite the sample vehicle owners to bring their vehicle to an authorized Nissan dealer where the dealer will inspect the bell crank and hood lock assembly and replace, if necessary, using a like-for-like part at no charge to the customer. Nissan will be collecting and reviewing the replaced parts in connection with its further investigation and remedy preparation.
- Nissan will mail interim notification letters to all other affected owners by August 3, 2022. This interim notification will instruct owners how to properly inspect the bell crank assembly and hood lock lever for proper operation. If the levers move freely, the owner can clean and condition the lever per the Owner's Manual general maintenance requirements in **Section 8 "Maintenance and DIY,"** or they may bring their vehicle into a dealer to perform the maintenance free of charge.

If the levers do not move freely, the customer will be instructed to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer. The dealer will inspect the bell crank assembly and hood lock lever for proper operation. If functioning properly, the dealer will clean and condition by applying lubricant free of charge. If either of these components do not function properly, the bell crank and/or hood lock assembly will be replaced with a new like-for-like part at no charge to the customer.

When the final remedy plan is available, Nissan will mail final remedy notification letters and include a statement concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy for a subject vehicle that was no longer under warranty at the time of a repair.

8. Copy of Notices:

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