



Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:
PO Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068

October 10, 2023

Dr. Cem Hatipoglu
Acting 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 Dr. Hatipoglu:

We are transmitting the enclosed amendment to the Defect Information Report filed on December 12, 2022. This amendment updates sections 6 and 7: Chronology of Principle Events and Description of Corrective Action, respectively.

Very truly,

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:

January 2015 - Nissan decided to conduct a safety recall on a population of MY 2013-2014 Nissan Pathfinder vehicles to remedy a hood release cable issue (Recall Number 15V-033). Specifically, analysis showed that the hood release cable was too short in certain circumstances preventing the secondary hood latch from engaging properly. This hood latch failure resulted in the hood becoming unlatched, or partially unlatched, while driving in a portion of the subject vehicles. The remedy for this recall involved modification of the angle of the hood release mechanism to provide additional length to the release cable.

Subsequent reports of the alleged defect in certain subject vehicles have led Nissan to continue its investigation. Initial efforts in this investigation focused on failure modes similar to Recall Number 15V-033 or a stuck latch due to corrosion. Nissan did not find significant evidence of an issue with the Recall Number 15V-033 repair or population, nor did we find evidence of substantial corrosion on hood latches in the parts collected from incident vehicles.

July 2021 through December 2021 - Nissan reviewed Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs) NHTSA had received alleging hood latch failures on MY 2013-2016 Pathfinder vehicles, while being driven, resulting in the hood opening and obstructing vision of the driver. Nissan began an investigation into the claims and initiated a field parts collection activity to assess the alleged failure of the hood latch. Nissan determined the reported failures did not appear to be related to the defect or remedy under Recall Number 15V-033, and broadened its parts collection and investigation. Nissan had ongoing discussions with NHTSA concerning its investigation progress.

December 9, 2021 - NHTSA opened Preliminary Evaluation (PE21-022).

January 2022 through March 2022 - Nissan conducted an analysis of the subject Pathfinder vehicles and expanded its parts collection activity. The initial analysis showed that the unique front-end design on the subject Pathfinder vehicles could potentially create airflow around the hood locking system such that dust/dirt contamination may accumulate around the bell crank lever pivot. If not properly maintained, over time this build-up of contamination could cause the lever to stick/seize and compromise the anti-corrosion coating allowing long term corrosion of bare metal in the pivot joint.

April 2022 - Nissan replied to the Information Request for PE21-022 with its analysis in the on-going investigation and explained that it had not found any incidents of the subject condition where a customer had a vehicle accident or fatality and only one instance of an alleged injury (whiplash) which had not been substantiated.

June 6, 2022 - After further consultation with NHTSA, Nissan decided to conduct a Safety Recall Campaign and submitted its reporting in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573.

June 2022 through December 2022 - Nissan provided interim notification letters to all affected customers as described below. Nissan is continuing to collect and review the parts to further inform its final remedy development and preparation.

March 2023 - Nissan mailed a second interim notification letter to owners of affected vehicles as described below. Nissan is continuing its final remedy development and preparation.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

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

- Nissan mailed interim notification letters to a selected sample of 40,000 owners of affected vehicles on June 30, 2022. This interim letter invited the sample vehicle owners to bring their vehicle to an authorized Nissan dealer where the dealer would 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 collected and reviewed the replaced parts in connection with its ongoing investigation and remedy preparation.

- Nissan mailed interim notification letters to all other affected owners on August 3, 2022. This interim notification instructed owners how to properly inspect the bell crank assembly and hood lock lever for proper operation. If the levers moved freely, the owner could clean and condition the lever per the Owner's Manual general maintenance requirements in **Section 8 "Maintenance and DIY,"** or they could bring their vehicle into a dealer to perform the maintenance free of charge.

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

- Nissan mailed a second interim notification letter to owners of affected vehicles on March 24, 2023. This second interim letter advised customers that Nissan was continuing to prepare a remedy for their vehicle and that final repair timing is expected in Summer 2024. Additionally, this letter reminded owners on how to properly inspect the bell crank assembly and hood lock lever for proper operation.

Nissan's remedy development and preparation is ongoing. 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.