



Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:
PO Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068

February 9, 2023

Ms. Anne Collins
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 Ms. Collins:

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
Nissan North America, Inc., Canton Plant

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

The production period of affected vehicles involved is shown in the table below.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>	<u>Manufacturing Plant</u>
MY 2008-2011 Nissan Titan	September 25, 2007 to April 27, 2011	Canton
MY 2008-2011 Nissan Frontier	September 13, 2007 to December 23, 2010	Smyrna
MY 2008-2011 Nissan Xterra	September 13, 2007 to December 23, 2010	Smyrna
MY 2008-2011 Nissan Pathfinder	September 13, 2007 to December 23, 2010	Smyrna
MY 2008-2011 Nissan Armada	September 25, 2007 to April 28, 2011	Canton
MY 2008-2009 Nissan Quest	September 27, 2007 to June 15, 2009	Canton

This issue (as described in Section 5 below) is specific to the emblems on certain driver's airbag assemblies provided by the supplier (Autoliv), that were used during the production periods for the models listed above. No other Nissan or INFINITI vehicles are affected.

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

<u>Part Name</u>	<u>Part Description</u>	<u>Part Number</u>
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Quest - Gray Interior	98510-ZM70A
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Quest - Beige Interior	98510-ZM70B
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Titan, Armada - Almond Interior	98510-ZQ00A
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Titan, Armada - Charcoal Interior	98510-ZQ00B
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Armada - Stone Interior	98510-ZV00C
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier, Xterra, Pathfinder - Graphite Interior	98510-ZP50C
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier - Steel Interior	98510-ZP50D
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier, Xterra, Pathfinder - Beige Interior	98510-ZS00A
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier - Graphite / Red Interior	98510-ZP60C
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier - Steel Interior	98510-ZP60D
Driver's Airbag Assembly	Frontier - Beige Interior	98510-ZS10A

The name and address of the driver's airbag supplier is:

Autoliv ASP, Inc.
1320 Pacific Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Maryann Pierce Perttunen
Vice President Legal
maryann.perttunen@autoliv.com
Direct: +1-248-276-0713

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 404,690 vehicles may be affected as shown in the table below:

<u>Model Year / Model</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles</u>
MY 2008 - 2011 Nissan Titan	75,530
MY 2008 - 2011 Nissan Frontier	113,313
MY 2008 - 2011 Nissan Xterra	72,601
MY 2008 - 2011 Nissan Pathfinder	70,693
MY 2008 - 2011 Nissan Armada	43,616
MY 2008 - 2009 Nissan Quest	28,937

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

Approximately 0.03%. 1% is used here because submission within NHTSA's safety portal will not allow a non-numeric value.

5. Description of the Defect:

The resin emblem on the driver's airbag module cover in affected vehicles may have reduced durability due to potential Tier 2 supplier production process variation. In this condition, the posts of the emblem may develop cracks over time, and the emblem and retainer components could detach in the event of an airbag deployment. A detached emblem and/or retainer component may become a projectile during an airbag deployment, increasing the risk of injury to vehicle occupants.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January 2022 - Nissan received a customer Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) from NHTSA related to an alleged injury reportedly caused by emblem detachment during a driver's airbag deployment on a Model Year 2008 Nissan Titan vehicle. Nissan launched an investigation into the issue.

Nissan identified three previous allegations of injury caused by detached emblems related to an airbag deployment event. At the time, based on the analysis Nissan conducted on the one (1) available part, Nissan believed it was an isolated incident.

- February 2019 lawsuit - Analysis of Model Year 2010 Titan identified contaminant residue on the broken emblem
- December 2020 Takata Trust Claim - Nissan has been unable to inspect the Model Year 2010 Armada
- December 2020 VOQ - Nissan was unable to inspect the Model Year 2009 Armada because it was salvaged

March 2022 - Nissan inspected the January 2022 VOQ incident vehicle but was not permitted to collect the incident part for further analysis. Nissan expanded its search to look for broken emblems. Additionally, Nissan initiated a parts return activity to retrieve any broken emblem field parts.

April 29, 2022 through August 2022 - Nissan shared their findings from the January 2022 VOQ vehicle inspection with NHTSA, including evidence of unknown liquid residue at the emblem location and on the emblem. Nissan continued attempts to collect the January 2022 VOQ incident part for analysis.

Additionally, Nissan collected two (2) field parts with the same emblem design produced within 3 months (November 2007) of the January 2022 VOQ incident part and which had allegedly broken off from the steering wheel cover (but not during an airbag deployment).

September 2022 through December 2022 - Nissan worked together with the airbag supplier (Autoliv) and conducted an emblem traceability study that linked the potential emblem quality issues to the Tier 2 supplier (Douglas) production. Data suggested review was needed of the Tier 2 supplier's procedures for sorting, molding or chroming of material at the start of production.

As part of the investigation, Nissan conducted a search for claims related to the subject condition. Nissan refined its search criteria multiple times to identify claims of broken or detached emblems. After extensive analysis, Nissan identified one hundred seventeen (117) reports of cracked or detached emblems. However, not one of them was related to airbag deployment. A majority of the identified claims were related to cosmetic concerns about the emblem.

Nissan continued updates to NHTSA on its field collection activity and attempts to collect the January 2022 VOQ incident part. Initial analysis of the other two (2) collected field parts showed broken emblem posts and revealed degradation that may have been due to melt flow rate variation during production. There was also evidence of material degradation potentially caused by the chrome plating process.

January 2023 - Nissan received the January 2022 VOQ incident part and began analysis.

Nissan shared the results of its investigation of the 2 collected field parts with NHTSA during a call on January 19, 2023. The majority of the instances of broken emblems come from an 8-month production period in 2007-2008 when Douglas supplied the emblem and was found to have used resin with non-optimized melt flow parameters in the injection molding process. Breaking of emblems was likely caused by a combination of material quality, quality of chrome plating of emblem, and customer usage.

Subsequent analysis of the January 2022 VOQ incident part confirmed that it also had a lower tensile strength, similar to the two (2) collected field parts. Nissan also worked with Autoliv to identify the potentially affected vehicle population based on internal production records.

February 2, 2023 – Based on the results of the investigation, and out of an abundance of caution, Nissan decided to conduct a Voluntary Safety Recall Campaign.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers will be notified beginning February 10, 2023. Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will receive an interim letter by April, 10 2023. The repair is under study at this time. When the repair is ready, customers will receive a final invitation to repair letter. All inspections and repairs will be performed free of charge for parts and labor.

Nissan will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy for a subject vehicle that is no longer under warranty at time of repair.

8. Copy of Notices:

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