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Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way  
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 685001  
Franklin, TN 37068

July 18, 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 Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. This Defect Information Report concerns MY2021 Versa and Kicks vehicles recalled to inspect and replace the steering column. The specific Versa and Kicks vehicles in scope of this recall were previously recalled and inspected under Recall 22V-693; however, vehicles released without replacing the steering column will be checked against additional potentially affected lot codes.

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 Mexicana, S.A, De C.V., Aguascalientes plant.

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

The vehicles subject to this report were previously recalled vehicles that were judged not to need a steering column replacement. The production period for the previously inspected vehicles includes certain Model Year 2021 Nissan Versa and Nissan Kicks vehicles manufactured from July 19, 2021 to September 27, 2021 at the Aguascalientes plant.

This issue (as described in Section 5 below) is specific to Nissan Versa and Kicks vehicles produced on a specific production line during the specified production period. No other Nissan or INFINITI vehicles are affected.

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

<b><u>Part Name</u></b>	<b><u>Part Description</u></b>	<b><u>Part Number</u></b>
COLUMN ASSY - STEERING	Upper Steering Column	48810-5EE0A

The steering column supplier for the affected vehicles:

NAME: JTEKT AUTOMOTIVE MEXICO

Supplier Code: 3547

Street Address: Avenida Montecillo #100 Parque Industrial Colinas, Villa de Pozos, 78423, San Luis Potosi

Name, Department: Gabriel Castillo, Quality Manager

Phone number: +52 (444) 188-9938

Email.com: Gabriel.castillo@jtekt.com

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 11,824 vehicles may be affected as shown in the table below:

<b><u>Model Year / Model</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Vehicles</u></b>
MY 2021 Nissan Versa	2,820
MY 2021 Nissan Kicks	9,004

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

Approximately 0.75%. 1% is used here because submission within NHTSA's safety portal will not allow a non-numeric value.

5. Description of the Defect:

In some of the affected vehicles, an intermittent electrical connection in the electric power steering (EPS) torque sensor can disable the EPS assist. In the event of an EPS failure, a Power Steering Warning Light will illuminate in the instrument cluster to alert the driver and the steering system will default to manual steering mode. The mechanical steering linkage is maintained at all times. However, loss of EPS will require higher steering effort, especially at low speeds, which may increase the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

December 2021 - Nissan opened an investigation for a field incident alleging sudden loss of EPS assist on a Model Year 2021 Nissan Versa vehicle. This incident appeared to be similar to an incident that occurred in Mexico market on a Nissan Kicks in September 2021. Nissan launched an investigation, together with the supplier, into the issue.

January 2022 - During the investigation, it was unclear if this was the same issue that caused the EPS failure in Mexico market. In order to better understand the issue, Nissan launched a dealer action on January 31, 2022 to collect parts. In parallel, Nissan launched a study to investigate the effect of EPS loss on steering effort.

February 2022 - As part of the study, Nissan collected 7 parts for analysis. Initial examination pointed to a potential issue with the torque sensor.

March 2022 through May 2022 - The supplier's investigation confirmed poor weld penetration at the terminal within the torque sensor that may have led to a disconnection of the terminal welds within the affected steering column torque sensor. The supplier worked to identify the potentially affected population based on internal production records. The supplier identified lot codes for potentially affected torque sensors.

Nissan initiated a pre-delivery inspection on in-transit vehicles and within dealer inventory to check for the potentially affected torque sensors. These parts were collected and sent to the supplier for analysis.

June 2022 through August 2022 – Nissan worked with the supplier to identify potentially affected vehicles.

September 8, 2022 – In an abundance of caution, Nissan decided to conduct a Voluntary Safety Recall Campaign to inspect all potentially affected vehicles and replace the steering column if an affected lot code was identified on the torque sensor.

May 2023 through June 2023 – Nissan received notification from the supplier indicating that certain steering column torque sensor lot codes were not provided at the time of the original recall (Recall 22V-693). Nissan reviewed the additional lot codes the supplier provided and investigated the impact of these missing lot codes on the steering column torque sensor inspection procedure for Recall 22V-693.

July 11, 2023 – Nissan decided to conduct a recall campaign out of an abundance of caution to re-inspect all 11,824 vehicles that were previously inspected and judged not to need a steering column replacement under Recall 22V-693, to determine if steering column replacement is necessary.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers will be notified beginning July 26, 2023 of the new recall. Owners of all previously inspected vehicles that were judged not to need a steering column replacement will be notified beginning on September 8, 2023, to bring their vehicle to the dealer for re-inspection. The dealer will re-inspect the steering column torque sensor lot code and replace the steering column assembly, if necessary. All inspections and repairs will be performed free of charge for parts and labor.

Nissan will not include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy for the subject vehicles because they are still under warranty.

8. Copy of Notices:

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