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By Recall Management Division at 12:21 pm, Jun 19, 2014

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June 19, 2014

Mr. Frank Borris
Director, Office of Defect Investigations
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Borris:

This letter is to confirm that Nissan will conduct a regional field action on certain Nissan vehicles equipped with specific Takata air bag inflators described in greater detail below. This action is being taken at the request of NHTSA and in the interest of customer safety, satisfaction and our long-standing commitment to cooperation with the agency on safety matters.

Background

On June 11, Nissan was notified that Takata, at NHTSA's request, has agreed to support a regional field action described below to replace specific air bag inflators. This letter confirms Nissan's support and commitment to initiate this field action. We note that Nissan has not made an independent safety defect determination but understands this field action will be assigned a recall number for tracking and administration purposes.

Description of the Issue

According to Takata's June 11 letter to the agency, Takata has become aware of six incidents involving ruptures of inflators manufactured by them that were not covered by prior inflator-related recalls. All of these incidents occurred in either Florida or Puerto Rico. Takata explained that Florida and Puerto Rico have exceptionally high levels of absolute humidity, and that exposure to that level of humidity, in conjunction with potential processing issues during certain manufacturing time periods that may influence aging stability, are the focus of Takata's current research and investigation efforts. Nissan has recently become aware of one such incident involving a Nissan vehicle not covered by

the 2013 inflator related recall. Nissan has notified Takata of the incident and has already shared information about it with the agency.

Description of Field Action

Consistent with Takata's commitment to the agency, Nissan will initiate a field action in Puerto Rico, Florida, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, based on the high levels of absolute humidity in those areas. Specifically, Nissan will replace SPI and PSPI inflators (which are used in passenger-side air bags) manufactured between January 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004. The subject inflators will be collected and shipped to Takata for additional analysis.

We note that Takata June 11 letter also references older inflators manufactured as early as June 2000. These inflators were subject to a previous Nissan campaign (number 13V-136). We will communicate separately to you concerning the inflators in this date range.

Vehicles Potentially Involved

Nissan is awaiting additional information from Takata (including subject inflator serial numbers) before confirming the potentially affected vehicles.

Timing of Field Action

Nissan is committed to promptly initiating this field action. The campaign preparation is in the early stages, but Nissan intends to launch this field action in mid-July.

Manner of Customer Notification

Although no safety defect determination has been made, Nissan will notify customers via letters of a safety issue and urge them to promptly remedy their vehicles. A copy of the letter will be provided to the agency prior to notification for review and suggested adjustments.

Very truly,



Donald Neff
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.