



February 26, 2020

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 (DIR) 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 "Derek Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Derek Latta
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Mexicana, S.A, De C.V.

Fuel tank assembly part numbers:

| <u>Model Year/Make Model</u> | <u>Part Description</u> | <u>Part Number</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| MY2020 Nissan Versa | FUEL TANK ASSY | 172025EE0A |
| Gasket Kit | GASKET KIT | 17342EA000 |
| Gasket | GASKET - EXHAUST | 2069119B0A |

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain Model Year 2020 Nissan Versa vehicles manufactured from September 6, 2019 through September 23, 2019 at the Aguascalientes, Mexico plant.

The affected fuel tanks are unique to the make and model vehicles manufactured during the above dates provided by the supplier traceability records. No other vehicles are affected.

The name and address of the fuel tank supplier is:

TI GROUP AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS
Av. Del Siglo #250, Int. 0, Ciudad Industrial
Parque Industrial Millenium
San Luis Potosí, SLP, Mexico

Carlos Saucedo
Phone: +52 444 137 0011
Email: casaucedo@tifs.com

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 46 Model Year 2020 Nissan Versa vehicles

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

1%¹

¹ The estimated percentage of vehicles involved with defect is unknown. However, 1% is used on NHTSA's safety portal because it will not allow a non-numeric value.

5. Description of the Defect:

Due to a manufacturing deviation, the subject vehicles may be equipped with a fuel tank that contains an insufficient wall thickness. More specifically, the wall thickness in one area of the fuel tank was low due to a supplier manufacturing process issue. The low wall thickness, in combination with the burr trimming process, may have resulted in a small hole in the tank seam on certain tanks.

If a small hole is present, a fuel leak may occur if the customer fills the tank over half full. A leak will be detectable by a strong fuel smell in the rear of the vehicle. Under certain circumstances, there is potential for a thermal incident.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

Early January 2020 – Nissan became aware of a customer report of a strong fuel smell in the rear, lower area of a model year 2020 Versa vehicle in Mexico.

During the course of the dealer investigation and repair, the dealer identified a small hole in the seam of the fuel tank that appeared to be the source of the fuel leak. Nissan notified the fuel tank supplier of the issue.

An audit of the supplier records indicated that a blow mold machine failure resulted in the potential for low wall thickness on certain tanks. This condition, combined with a molding burr trimming process, resulted in a small hole along the tank seam. Supplier records identified 135 tanks (46 manufactured for U.S. market) within the affected range of the subject condition.

February 13, 2020 - Nissan performed a check of U.S. dealer inventory and found eleven (11) Versa vehicles in dealer inventory with fuel tanks manufactured within the subject range.

February 19, 2020 – Based on the foregoing, Nissan decided to conduct a Safety Recall Campaign in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573 to remedy the remaining vehicles.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Nissan will notify all owners of potentially affected vehicles by first-class mail on March 23, 2020. Dealers will be notified on February 27, 2020. The dealer will replace the fuel tank, including a new gasket.

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

8. Copy of Notices:

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