



Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:
PO Box 685001
Franklin, TN 37068

May 27, 2021

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 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Latta
Manager,
Technical Compliance

Encl.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:**

Nissan North America Inc., Smyrna plant
Nissan North America Inc., Canton plant
Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., Tochigi plant
Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., Cooperation Manufacturing Plant Aguascalientes (COMPAS)

2. **Vehicles Potentially Involved:**

Certain Nissan and INFINITI vehicles shown in the table below:

<u>Model Year/Model</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>	<u>Manufacturing Plant</u>
MY 2020 Nissan Murano	August 31, 2020-September 16, 2020	Canton, MS
MY 2021 Nissan GT-R	August 24, 2020-October 13, 2020	Tochigi, Japan
MY 2021 INFINITI Q50	August 20, 2020-October 23, 2020	Tochigi, Japan
MY 2021 INFINITI QX50	August 31, 2020-October 31, 2020	Compas, Mexico
MY 2020 INFINITI QX60	September 22, 2020-October 29, 2020	Smyrna, TN

The defect (described in Section 5 below) is unique to parts manufactured in the Number 3 furnace at the Yokohama plant that were subsequently shipped to other plant locations. These parts are identifiable by specific production date ranges shown above and contain a unique casting stamp. No other Nissan or INFINITI vehicles are affected.

The name, description and part number(s) of the recalled component(s) are below.

<u>Part Name</u>	<u>Part Description</u>	<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Applicable Model</u>
SPINDLE-KNUCKLE	Front steering knuckle	40014/5-4GA0A	Infiniti Q50
SPINDLE-KNUCKLE	Front steering knuckle	40014/5-JF00A	Nissan GT-R
KNUCKLE SPINDLE	Front steering knuckle Spindle	40014/5-5NA0A	INFINITI QX50
HOUSING ASSY-REAR AXLE	Rear Axle Housing Assembly	43018/9-5NA0A	INFINITI QX50
HOUSING-REAR AXLE	Rear Axle Housing	43018/9-1AA0A	INFINITI QX60
HOUSING-REAR AXLE	Rear Axle Housing	43018/9-1AA0A	Nissan Murano

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 14,276 vehicles total.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Volume of Production</u>
MY 2020 Nissan Murano	4,774
MY 2021 Nissan GT-R	20
MY 2021 INFINITI Q50	4,142
MY 2021 INFINITI QX50	4,697
MY 2020 INFINITI QX60	643

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

The estimated percentage of vehicles with the defect is unknown. Because submission within NHTSA's safety portal will not allow a non-numeric value, 1% is used here.

5. Description of the Defect:

During the heat-treating process for the subject components, a gap in the furnace door caused the temperature to decrease in a specific area of the furnace. Those axle components located in the low temperature area of the furnace experienced an insufficient amount of heat, resulting in poor hardness. The specific components affected are installed on certain vehicles as the front steering knuckle and/or rear axle housing.

If the front steering knuckle or rear axle housing receives a strong impact (such as hitting a curb), the steering knuckle or rear axle housing may deform due to low hardness. As a result, the steering wheel may become off-center, impairing the customer's ability to steer the vehicle or, in the case of rear axle housing, cause wheel mis-alignment. If the deformation is not detected and the vehicle continues to be operated, the damaged steering knuckle or rear axle housing may cause wheel separation from the vehicle, thus increasing the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

October 2020 – Nissan became aware of an issue in certain front steering knuckles and rear axle housings manufactured at the Yokohama, Japan Plant. The subject steering knuckles and axle housings were determined to be out-of-specification for hardness. All of the subject parts were produced in the same furnace.

Nissan conducted a plant audit and performed recreation testing, which determined that an issue with a gap in a particular furnace's door caused a low temperature condition that produced low hardness in certain axle components that were heat treated.

November 2020 through January 2021 - Nissan began an investigation to determine if the issue affected vehicles sold in the U.S. In addition, Nissan conducted durability testing on the subject axle components on certain INFINITI Q50 vehicles to determine the extent of the issue.

The initial testing as it relates to part failure was inconclusive. Nissan decided to expand the durability testing to other potentially affected models that utilized the same axle components.

February 2021 through April 2021 - As part of the expanded investigation, Nissan increased the severity of the testing to determine the safety risk of a potential failure, allowing for structural and size differences for various models. The extensive testing included five (5) different Nissan and INFINITI models.

May 20, 2021 - Based on the testing results, Nissan decided to conduct a safety recall campaign to remedy affected vehicles.

Nissan is not aware of any incidents related to the subject condition in the U.S. market.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Owners of all affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to a Nissan dealer (or INFINITI retailer). The dealer (or retailer) will inspect the casting stamp of the front steering knuckle and/or rear axle housing for production date. If any of the components are affected, the dealer will replace the affected parts. This repair will be performed free of charge for the customer.

Dealers will be notified on June 8, 2021. Nissan will begin notifying all affected vehicle owners by first class mail beginning July 23, 2021. Your office will be provided with the final Part 577 owner notification. We 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 still under warranty.

8. Copy of Notices:

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