



---

**Nissan North America, Inc.**

One Nissan Way  
Franklin, TN 37067

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 685001  
Franklin, TN 37068

August 15, 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. 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 Mexicana, S.A. de C.V. Aguascalientes

2. Units Potentially Involved:

Model Year 2020 - 2022 Nissan Sentra vehicles as shown in the table below:

<b><u>Model</u></b>	<b><u>Dates of Manufacture</u></b>
MY 2020 - 2022 Nissan Sentra	November 25, 2019 to March 31, 2022

Based on the production records, the issue is unique to MY 2020 - 2022 Sentra vehicles, manufactured during the specified time period outlined above. No other Nissan or INFINITI vehicles are affected.

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

<b><u>Part Name</u></b>	<b><u>Part Description</u></b>	<b><u>Part Number</u></b>
SOCKET KIT - TIE ROD, INNER	Tie Rod	D8521-6LB0A

The tie rod supplier for the affected vehicles:

Robert Bosch Automotive Steering LLC  
15 Spiral Drive  
Florence, KY 41042

Daniel Legg, Quality Manager  
Phone: (859) 912-0491  
Email: daniel.legg@bosch.com

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 236,238 MY 2020-2022 Nissan Sentra vehicles total.

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

100%

5. Description of the Defect:

On affected vehicles, the left and/or right side tie rod's strength may be insufficient under certain operating conditions. If the tie rod experiences a high input force (such as a curb impact) it may deform. A bent tie rod may impair the driver's ability to steer the vehicle. Additionally, the steering wheel may be off-center and/or experience vibration. In the worst case scenario, if the tie rod breaks, it can lead to a partial loss of steering control which may increase the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Principle Events:

January 18, 2023 – Nissan identified a warranty claim for MY22 Sentra vehicle that alleged the steering wheel was off-center. The dealer technician identified the right front inner tie-rod end as being broken. Nissan requested the incident part for analysis.

February 2023 through March 2023 – Nissan's initial investigation of the incident part suggested signs of fatigue fracture. However, upon further investigation, Nissan observed deformation from bending of the tie rod (possibly due to impact) which may have led to fracture at the ball end housing. Nissan conducted additional material testing, but the tests were inconclusive as no structural defects were observed. Nissan initiated a field parts collection activity and warranty claim review. During its review, Nissan determined that the incident vehicle was not subject to the previous tie rod recall (21V-461) as this vehicle was built after the production clean point.

April 2023 through May 2023 – Nissan conducted bench testing to try to recreate the subject condition. Nissan was unable to duplicate the condition during bench testing as the tie rods showed sufficient strength. During its review, Nissan identified four (4) additional warranty claims on MY 2022 Sentra vehicles alleging bent or broken tie rods.

June 2023 through July 2023 – Nissan conducted in-vehicle testing. During in-vehicle testing, Nissan observed possible tie rod deformation when subjected to a sufficiently high input force (such as a curb impact or large pot hole). Nissan determined the tie rod met Nissan design specifications and performed as expected in bench tests; however, the tie rod strength may be insufficient under certain driving condition.

August 8, 2023 – Out of an abundance of caution, Nissan decided to recall all potentially affected MY20-22 Sentra vehicles produced during the period November 25, 2019 to March 31, 2022 to replace the left and right side tie rods with a new specification part.

As of the date of determination, Nissan is aware of 91 total field incidents from August 2021 through July 2023 attributed to a bent or broken tie rods on MY2020-2022 Sentra vehicles in the U.S. Nissan received five (5) reports of accidents since issuing recall 21V-461 which alleged bent or broken tie rod, but has been unable to determine if they may have related

to the subject condition. Nissan has not received any reports of injuries since issuing recall 21V-461 related to the subject condition.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers will be notified on August 16, 2023. Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified with an interim owner letter beginning October 5, 2023. The interim notification will instruct owners to contact dealers for diagnosis and transport instructions if they experience an off-center steering wheel or vibration. If a dealer confirms a tie rod is bent or broken, the dealer will replace the affected part with a new design part at no cost to the owner. When additional remedy parts are available, currently expected beginning in Winter 2023-24, owners will receive an invitation to repair letter instructing them to bring their vehicle to a dealer for remedy. Dealers will replace both the left and right side tie rods with the new design parts. This repair will be performed free of charge for parts and labor and may take up to two and a half (2.5) hours to complete.

Nissan will include a statement in the Part 577 owner notification concerning reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy since some subject vehicles are no longer under warranty.

8. Copy of Notices:

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