



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

ODI RESUME

Handwritten initials/signature

IDENTIFICATION: PE01-008 DATE UPGRADED: 9-AUG-01
 SUBJECT: Passenger Air Bag-Related Facial/Eye Injuries DATE OPENED: 13 Mar 2001
 PROMPTED BY: IE01-016
 PRINCIPLE ENGINEER: Peter C. Ong *EA01-015*

MANUFACTURER: Nissan MODELS: Altima
 MODEL YEAR(S): MY1994 through early-MY1995 Vehicles
 VEHICLE POPULATION: 248,638

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: The deployment of the passenger-side frontal air bag during minor severity crashes may cause moderate to serious facial and eye injuries to the occupants of the right front seat.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	5	74	75*
CRASHES:	5	74	75*
INJURY CRASHES:	5	74	75*
# INJURIES:	5	74	75*
FATAL CRASHES:	0	0	0
# FATALITIES:	0	0	0
OTHER:	0	0	0

* Excludes 4 ODI/MFR duplicate reports.

ACTION: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis.

ENGINEER: *Peter C. Ong* DIV CHF: *Thomas J. Lopez* OFC DIR: *[Signature]*
 DATE: 8/9/01 DATE: 8/9/01 DATE: 8/9/01

SUMMARY: Among the 74¹ complaints/reports supplied by Nissan, 10 were Owners reports, 35 were Crash Claims and the remaining 29 were Lawsuits. Most of the complainants (passenger occupants) were wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash. A review of the damaged vehicles showed that most of the air bag deployments were near the lower-end of the deployment threshold, but all showed either frontal and/or undercarriage damages.

Among the 75 total reports/injuries cited, most indicated facial/near-eye injuries. However, 32 of the 75 reports cited eye specific injuries in which 15 injuries resulted in either multiple-days of hospitalization or a partial or full loss of vision prognosis in at least one eye after a period of 12 months or more.

Based on the information from Nissan and the review of the technical and medical records, this Preliminary Evaluation is upgraded to an Engineering Analysis.

¹The 24 OTHER/plaintiff reports under the PE opening resume are now included as part of the 74 manufacturer reports

Handwritten: 1113 NCS 8/14/01