



**NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Corporate Headquarters  
One Nissan Way  
Franklin, TN 37068

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 685001  
Franklin, TN 37068-5001

Telephone: 615.725.1000

September 18, 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

RE: Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Dear Mr. Giuseppe:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 556, Nissan North America, Inc. (Nissan) is hereby requesting exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. §§ 30118 - 30120 on the basis that a noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

**Noncompliance Information Report:**

Filed August 26, 2020, pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573 and amended on September 18, 2020.  
(See Attachment 1)

**Affected Vehicles:**

Certain Model Year 2020 Nissan Sentra vehicles equipped with LED headlamps manufactured from November 26, 2019 (start of production) to March 24, 2020 ("subject vehicles").

**Standard:**

49 CFR § 571.108 S10.18.9.1.2 (FMVSS No. 108): Lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment; Visual/Optical Aiming; Vertical Gradient

**Discussion:**

In a Noncompliance Information Report (NCIR) dated August 26, 2020 and amended on September 18, 2020, Nissan informed NHTSA that a noncompliance may exist on approximately 5,520 Nissan Sentra vehicles due to the fact the supplier (Ichikoh) did not apply the correct aiming logic when setting the head lamp aim parameters. As a result, the

right-hand LED headlamp aim may be misaligned resulting in a vertical gradient value below 0.13. A lower G-Value will lead to a headlamp cut line that is slightly less sharp. During the investigation, Ichikoh inspected 3,506 lamps and found 572 lamps with a G-Value below 0.13. However, when the cut-off value is brought down to two decimals instead of three (per the express requirement in FMVSS 108), only 286 lamps (about 8%) fall below the 0.13 minimum threshold. Of the 286 lamps, 248 (about 87%) are at a gradient value of 0.12. Figures 1 and 2 below show both a conforming example and a non-conforming example at a G-value of 0.12.

Figure 1 –Non-Conforming Example

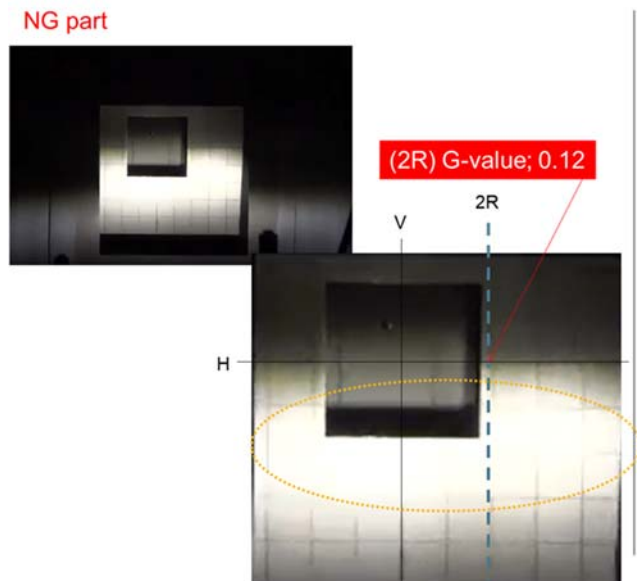
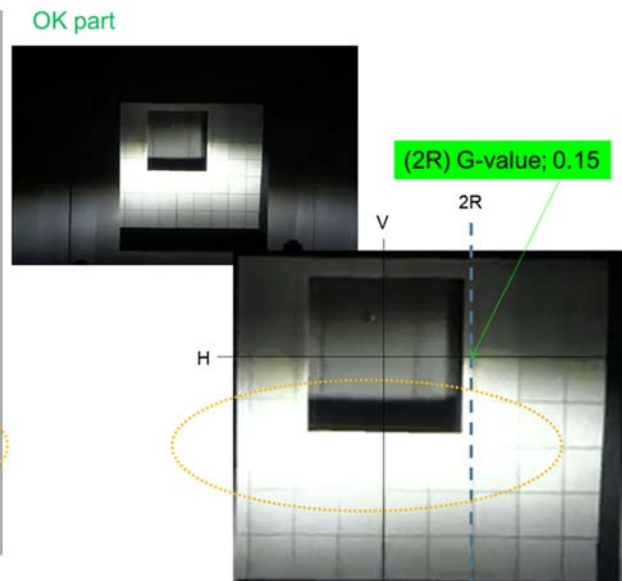


Figure 2 – Conforming Example



Ichikoh has also confirmed that, even when the G-Value is below 0.13, all points of the Light Distribution achieve the required specifications of FMVSS 108 for both the low and high beam performance. The test reports confirming this are attached to this petition as Attachment 2.

Nissan has not received any reports from the field of customer complaints, warranty claims, crashes, injuries or fatalities related to this issue.

**Nissan believes the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety for the following reasons:**

1. The purpose of the gradient requirement is to assist in headlamp re-aiming. The vehicles potentially affected by this issue were aimed properly at the factory using a different aiming method. Therefore, the only potential concern would relate to re-aiming performed after the vehicle has been in use. Aiming of the headlamps by a service technician in the field is an event that is expected to occur infrequently. To confirm this, Nissan searched its repair order database for repair orders on the previous

generation Sentra that involved re-aiming of the headlamps. Out of 1,389,330 vehicles only 161 repair orders were found that involved headlamp aiming. This rate of repair would be 0.011% of vehicles. If the same rate of repair is applied to the expected 420 vehicles in the subject population we would expect only 0.05 vehicles of the subject population to require a re-aiming in the field.

2. The difference in gradient values between 0.12 and 0.13 does not materially affect the ability of a service technician to properly aim the lamp in the rare case that this would need to be done in the field.
3. Even if the lamps had to be re-aimed at some point, it is unlikely the driver or other motorists would notice any glare or observable difference in operation between a fully compliant lamp and the subject lamps based on the conditions described above.
4. In the subject parts, all points of the light distribution achieve the required specifications of FMVSS 108 for both the low and high beam performance.

In consideration of the foregoing, Nissan requests that the NHTSA make a determination that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and grant Nissan an exemption from the recall and remedy requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Latta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Derek Latta  
Manager, Technical Compliance

Enclosures:  
Noncompliance Information Report  
Supplier Test Reports

**Attachment 1**

**49 CFR Part 573 Amended Noncompliance Information Report dated September 18, 2020**



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Nissan North America, Inc.

One Nissan Way  
Franklin, TN 37067

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 685001  
Franklin, TN 37068

September 18, 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 amended Non-Compliance Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573. This report amends section(s) 5, 6 and 7: Description of the Noncompliance, Basis for Determination of the Existence of a Noncompliance and Description of Corrective Action, respectively. Nissan plans to petition the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for a determination that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. The notification of intent to petition was previously discussed and acknowledged by the Recall Management Division on September 16, 2020.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Latta", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Derek Latta  
Manager,  
Technical Compliance

Encl.

## **NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT**

1. Manufacturer:

Nissan Mexicana, S.A. de C.V. Aguascalientes plant

2. Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Certain Model Year 2020 Nissan Sentra vehicles manufactured in the Aguascalientes, Mexico plant from November 26, 2019 (Start of Production) to March 24, 2020.

Based on production records, the head lamp aiming issue only affects the right-hand head lamp on Model Year 2020 Nissan Sentra vehicles equipped with LED (Light-Emitting Diode) head lamps. The left-hand side LED head lamp meets FMVSS 108 requirements.

The subject right-hand LED headlamps are specific to Sentra vehicles produced at the Aguascalientes plant and this issue affects no other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles.

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Applicable Model</u>
26010-6LB5A	RH Head Lamp	2020 Nissan Sentra

The LED head lamp manufacturer is:

ICHIKOH INDUSTRIES, LTD.  
80 Itado, Isehara-shi, Kanagawa-ken 259-1192

Mr. Shozo Kawate  
Quality Assurance Vice President  
shozo.kawate@valeo.com  
+81-(0)463-96-1451

The country of origin of the LED head lamp manufacturer is:  
Japan

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:

Approximately 5,520 Model Year 2020 Nissan Sentra vehicles

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

100%

## 5. Description of the Noncompliance:

In affected lamps, the supplier did not apply the correct aiming logic when setting the head lamp aim parameters resulting in a vertical gradient value below 0.13. As a result, if the headlamp needs to be re-aimed while in use, the right-hand LED headlamp aim may be misaligned. In this condition, the aiming performance does not meet the minimum specification defined in S10.18.9.1.2 of FMVSS No. 108; Lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment. Headlamps that are not aimed properly can result in insufficient illumination of the road while driving, which may increase the risk of a crash while driving at night.

The issue does not impact headlamp aim and performance at the time of manufacturing.

## 6. Basis for Determination of the Existence of a Noncompliance

In March 2020, during a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) audit at the supplier, an issue with the right-hand LED head lamp was discovered.

May 2020 - The supplier notified Nissan of the potential non-compliance and began an investigation into the issue to determine root cause.

June 2020 through July 2020 - During the manufacturing process review, the supplier discovered that the correct aiming logic was not applied when setting the right-hand LED head lamp aim parameters. Additionally, an audit of the supplier's documentation revealed that the control plan review only occurred every six (6) months, allowing the incorrect specification to go undetected.

August 2020 - The supplier reviewed its production records to determine whether the subject LED head lamp assemblies could have been supplied to Nissan. Upon confirming that this was indeed the case, Nissan reviewed its records and determined that certain Nissan Sentra may contain the subject LED head lamp.

August 19, 2020 - Upon confirming that the aiming issue affected compliance with FMVSS No. 108, Nissan made a noncompliance determination.

August 26, 2020 through September 18, 2020 - The supplier shared information and requested consideration of a potential for filing a Petition of Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance.

Based on the above, Nissan decided to file a Petition of Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance on behalf of the supplier in light of the new evidence provided.

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Dealers were notified on August 27, 2020. Nissan is filing a Petition of Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance.

8. Copy of Notices:

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

**Attachment 2**  
**Supplier Test Reports**

# Test report

Product name : HEAD LAMP  
 Model : L21B 0M2 H/L LED VOR RH 北米 LAG  
 Part number : 26010 - 6LB5A  
 Standard : FMVSS No.108 LOWER BEAM (LB2V & LB3V)  
 Lamp rating : 13.5V15W LED / 13.5V23W LED  
 Remark :

Light color : White

Measured distance : 18.3m

Lot No. : 22/Jan/2020 0274 10/Feb/2020 0603 24/Feb/2020 0741

Unit : cd

Measuring point or zone	Required luminosity		RH					
	Min	Max	22/Jan/2020 0274	10/Feb/2020 0603	24/Feb/2020 0741			
LOWER BEAM								
10U to 90U		125	75	80	104			
4U - 8L	64		162	229	205			
4U - 8R	64		296	238	261			
2U - 4L	135		361	405	425			
1.5U - 1R to 3R	200		703	622	639			
1.5U - 1R to R		1400	776	736	723			
1U - 1.5L to L		700	619	673	679			
0.5U - 1.5L to L		1000	867	991	897			
0.5U - 1R to 3R	500	2700	1788	1125	1212			
0.5U - 1R to 3R	500	2700	1671	994	1034			
H - 4L	135		3003	1868	1429			
H - 8L	64		1172	930	776			
0.6D - 1.3R	10000		14299	12256	11922			
0.86D - V	4500		15940	14165	13161			
0.86D - 3.5L	1800	12000	10883	8941	7936			
1.5D - 2R	15000		21131	22939	22136			
2D - 9L	1250		6731	7602	7401			
2D - 9R	1250		10381	9577	9510			
2D - 15L	1000		2431	2488	2602			
2D - 15R	1000		4587	3750	3784			
4D - 4R		12500	4889	5793	5693			
4D - 20L	300		1724	1918	1791			
4D - 20R	300		2873	2568	2672			
Maximum(any direction)			22538	23073	22806			
Location			1.36D	1.53D	1.73D			
			3.07R	1.76R	2.24R			
VOLTAGE(V)			12.80	12.80	12.80			
CURRENT(A)			0.932	0.940	0.936			
G value	0.13		0.110	0.122	0.125			
Cutoff maximum tilt		0.2	0.200	0.100	0.200			

G-value judgment : NG

Point judgment : PASS

# Test report

Product name : HEAD LAMP  
 Model : L21B 0M2 H/L LED VOR RH 北米 LAG  
 Part number : 26010 - 6LB5A  
 Standard : FMVSS No.108 LOWER BEAM (LB2V & LB3V)  
 Lamp rating : 13.5V15W LED / 13.5V23W LED  
 Remark :  
 Light color : White  
 Lot No. : 22/Jan/2020 0274 10/Feb/2020 0603 24/Feb/2020 0741

Measured distance : 18.3m

Unit : cd

Measuring point or zone	Required luminosity		RH					
	Min	Max	22/Jan/2020 0274	10/Feb/2020 0603	24/Feb/2020 0741			
UPPER BEAM								
2U - V	1500		9042	6295	2642			
1U - 3L	5000		9443	15974	9778			
1U - 3R	5000		17179	10850	10616			
H - 12L	1500		3050	3683	3382			
H - 9L	3000		5860	6530	6228			
H - 6L	5000		9477	10783	9209			
H - 3L	15000		19189	26288	21600			
H - V	40000	75000	42196	56261	50233			
H - 3R	15000		34828	20528	24446			
H - 6R	5000		11687	9309	9477			
H - 9R	3000		7802	6731	7267			
H - 12R	1500		4822	4219	4487			
1.5D - 9L	2000		6898	7300	7936			
1.5D - V	5000		27829	36369	39416			
1.5D - 9R	2000		11151	9845	11654			
2.5D - 12L	1000		4387	4989	5257			
2.5D - V	2500		14299	16309	19825			
2.5D - 12R	1000		6195	5592	6396			
4D - V		12000	5492	5961	6496			
Maximum(any direction)			59945	57935	63629			
Location			0.30D	0.27D	0.56D			
			1.51R	0.24R	0.86R			
VOLTAGE(V)			12.80	12.80	12.80			
CURRENT(A)			1.235	1.251	1.253			

Point judgment : PASS

Ichikoh Co., Ltd.

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 20V-507

**Manufacturer Name :** Nissan North America, Inc.

**Submission Date :** AUG 26, 2020

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-507

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



### Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Nissan North America, Inc.

Address : P. O. BOX 685001

Franklin TN 37068-5009

Company phone : 800-647-7261

### Population :

Number of potentially involved : 5,520

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

### Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2020-2020 Nissan Sentra

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

**Descriptive Information :** Based on production records, the head lamp aiming issue only affects the right-hand head lamp on Model Year 2020 Nissan Sentra vehicles equipped with LED (Light-Emitting Diode) head lamps. The left-hand side LED head lamp meets FMVSS 108 requirements.

The subject right-hand LED headlamps are specific to Sentra vehicles produced at the Aguascalientes plant and this issue affects no other Nissan or Infiniti vehicles.

Production Dates : NOV 26, 2019 - MAR 24, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

### Description of Noncompliance :

**Description of the Noncompliance :** In affected lamps, the supplier did not apply the correct aiming logic when setting the head lamp aim parameters. As a result, the right-hand LED headlamp aim may be misaligned resulting in a vertical gradient value below 0.13. In this condition, the aiming performance does not meet the minimum specification defined in S10.18.9.1.2 of FMVSS No. 108; Lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment.

FMVSS 1 : 108 - Lamps, reflective devices, and assoc. Equipment

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** Headlamps that are not aimed properly can result in insufficient illumination of the road while driving, which may increase the risk of a crash while driving at night.

**Description of the Cause :** NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : No preceding warning occurs.

### Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : LED Head Lamp

Component Description : Right-Hand (RH) Head Lamp

Component Part Number : 26010-6LB5A

### Supplier Identification :

#### Component Manufacturer

Name : ICHIKOH INDUSTRIES., LTD.

Address : 80 Itado  
Isehara-shi Kanagawa-ken FOREIGN STATES 259-1192

Country : Japan

### Chronology :

In May 2020, during a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) audit at the supplier, an issue with the right-hand LED head lamp was discovered. The supplier notified Nissan on May 4, 2020 of the potential non-compliance and began an investigation into the issue to determine root cause.

June 2020 through July 2020 – During the manufacturing process review, the supplier discovered that the correct aiming logic was not applied when setting the right-hand LED head lamp aim parameters. Additionally, an audit of the supplier's documentation revealed that the control plan review only occurred every six (6) months, allowing the incorrect specification to go undetected.

August 2020 – The supplier reviewed its production records to determine whether the subject LED head lamp assemblies could have been supplied to Nissan. Upon confirming that this was indeed the case, Nissan reviewed its records and determined that certain Nissan Sentra may contain the subject LED head lamp.

August 19, 2020 – Upon confirming that the aiming issue affected compliance with FMVSS No. 108, Nissan made a noncompliance determination.

### Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers will replace the right-hand LED headlamps to remedy this condition.

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 under warranty.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component contains the correct vertical gradient value that complies with FMVSS 108.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

### Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Nissan will notify all owners of potentially affected vehicles on October 5, 2020. Dealers will be notified on August 27, 2020.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 27, 2020 - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 05, 2020 - NR

\* NR - Not Reported