RECALL CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

Reference:	Date:
NTB96-108b	December 11, 2002

VOLUNTARY RECALL CAMPAIGN
FRONT SEAT BELT BUCKLE REPLACEMENT

IMPORTANT

- **This bulletin supercedes Recall Campaign bulletin NTB96-108a**

- **Refer to this bulletin NTB96-108b for complete information**

- **Please discard all previous copies of NTB96-108a**

- **The seat belt buckle "lot code" range has been expanded**

CAMPAIGN I.D. # \ NHTSA #:   R2018 \ 02V-125

APPLIED VEHICLE: 1994 Pathfinder (WD21)

APPLIED VINS: Pathfinder: JN8HD17**RW216236 - JN8HD17**RW243808

NOTE: Use Service Comm to confirm campaign eligibility.

INTRODUCTION

The front seat belt buckles may contain a part that could cause the seat belt tongue not to fully engage if it is not firmly inserted into the buckle, and may result in the seat belt becoming unfastened in the event of a collision or hard braking. This problem only affects certain lot numbers of buckles as described in the SERVICE PROCEDURE section of this bulletin.

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Nissan has assigned PNC R2018 to this campaign. This number must appear on all communications and documentation of any nature dealing with this Campaign.

NUMBER OF VEHICLES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The number of vehicles potentially affected is approximately 22,000.

DEALER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the dealer's responsibility to check each vehicle falling within the range of this campaign which for any reason enters the service department. This includes vehicles purchased from private parties or presented by transient (tourist) owners and vehicles in dealer inventory. Federal law requires that new vehicles in dealer inventory which are the subject of a safety recall must be corrected prior to sale. Failure to do so can result in civil penalties by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. While the Federal law applies only to new cars, Nissan strongly encourages dealers to correct any affected used cars in their inventory before selling them.

OWNER NOTIFICATION

Owners of affected vehicles have been notified by mail requesting them to bring their vehicle in for front seat belt buckle inspection and replacement of any buckles with the affected lot numbers. A copy of this notification can be found on page 4/4 of this bulletin.

SERVICE PROCEDURE

1. Hold the buckle in one hand and depress the release button.

2. Shine a small flashlight into the buckle and read the "lot code" as shown in Figure 1.

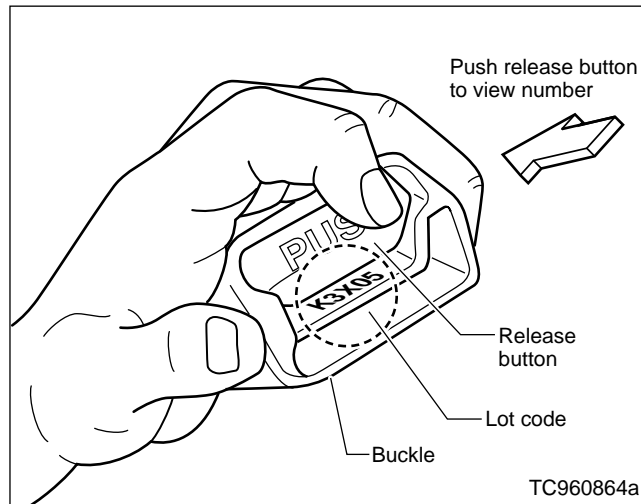   **NOTE:** Check both front buckles and record the lot code on the repair order.

Figure 1

3. Compare the lot code of the buckle in the vehicle to the lot numbers listed in the following chart:

MODEL	COLOR	LOCATION	LOT CODE RANGE
Pathfinder (WD21)	Gray	RH buckle	K3X05, K3Y03, K3Y05, K3Y06, K3Y08, K3Y09, K3Z01
Pathfinder (WD21)	Blue	RH buckle	K3X05
Pathfinder (WD21)	Red	RH buckle	Not included in campaign
Pathfinder (WD21)	Gray	LH buckle	K3X05, K3Y02-K3Y05, K3Y08
Pathfinder (WD21)	Blue	LH buckle	K3X05, K3Y02, K3Y08
Pathfinder (WD21)	Red	LH buckle	K3Y04, K3Y05, K3Y08, K3Y09

The seat belt buckle lot number can be de-coded as follows (use K3X05 as an example):

K: The letter K indicates the buckle was manufactured on the Takata assembly line.

3: This number indicates the last digit of the year the buckle was manufactured. In this example: 1993.

X: This letter indicates the month the buckle was manufactured. X= October; Y= November; Z= December. Numbers in this space are for January through September (1-9).

05: The last two digits indicate the production lot number.
Lot number code K3X05 was manufactured October of 1993, and is production lot number 05.

4. If the lot code on the buckle **does not** fall within the lot number ranges in the table on page 2, the buckle does not require replacement.

5. If the lot code **does** fall within the ranges in the above chart, proceed to step 6.

   NOTE: You may find that only one buckle may fall into the range. If so, **only the affected buckle should be replaced**.

6. Move the bucket seat forward to access the seat belt buckle anchor bolt.

7. Replace the affected seat belt buckle assembly.

   NOTE: The <u>retractor</u> and/or <u>lap belt</u> portion of the seat belt will **NOT** be replaced. Only the affected buckle portions need to be replaced.

8. Torque the anchor bolt to **26.4-33.6 ft-lbs** (35.8-45.6 N•m, 3.65-4.65 kg-m).

9. Check the seat belt operation by inserting and removing the tongue into the buckle three times to confirm that it latches properly.

Lifetime Seat Belt Warranty

The vehicles involved in this campaign have a "Lifetime" Limited Warranty on all seat belt assemblies. If a customer complains of seat belt problems which are not the subject of this campaign, the necessary repairs should be performed and claimed using normal seat belt claims coding. These claims will not be honored using the recall campaign coding.

PARTS INFORMATION

Part number	SD	Model	Color	C
86842-61G00	RH	WD21	Gray	K
86842-61G01	RH	WD21	Blue	B
86842-61G02	RH	WD21	Red	R
86843-61G00	LH	WD21	Gray	K
86843-61G01	LH	WD21	Blue	B
86843-61G02	LH	WD21	Red	R

CLAIMS INFORMATION

Submit a "Campaign" (CM) line claim using the following claims coding information:

Campaign I.D.:   R2018

DESCRIPTION	OP CODE	FRT
Inspect ONLY Front Seat Belt Buckles	R20180	0.2 hrs

<u>OR</u>

DESCRIPTION	OP CODE	FRT
Inspect both / RPL 1 or 2 Front Seat Belt Buckles	R20181	0.3 hrs

OWNER'S LETTER

Dear Nissan Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Nissan Motor Company, Ltd. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the front seat belt buckles in some 1994 Nissan Pathfinders. Although you may have had a prior seat belt buckle replacement or an inspection under a prior recall, our records indicate that a re-inspection of your vehicle is necessary.

Reason for Recall

The front seat belt buckles installed in your vehicle may contain a part that could cause the seat belt tongue to not fully engage if it is not firmly inserted into the buckle. This may result in the seat belt becoming unfastened in the event of a collision or hard braking of the vehicle. If this occurs in a collision, there is the possibility of an increased chance of injury.

What Nissan Will Do

Your Nissan dealer will inspect your seat belt buckles and replace them, if necessary, at **no charge** to you. It is expected that most seat belt buckles in vehicles will not contain the defective part. However, **it is extremely important to have your seat belt buckles inspected as soon as possible**. The inspection will require approximately ten minutes to complete and, if the buckles need replacing, the repair will take about two hours. Your dealer's schedule and replacement parts availability may require that you leave your vehicle for a greater length of time. Dealers currently have the instructions and the majority of the required parts to complete the repair.

What You Should Do

Contact your Nissan dealer and make an appointment to have your seat belt buckles inspected. Please bring this notice with you when you keep our service appointment. If the dealer fails or is unable to make the necessary repairs free of charge, please contact The National Consumer Affairs Office, Nissan North America, P.O. Box 191, Gardena, CA 90248-0191. The toll free telephone number is 1-800-NISSAN1 (1-800-647-7261). If you reside in Hawaii, call 1-808-836-0888.

You may also contact the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Until you are able to have your seat belt buckles inspected, firmly insert the seat belt tongue straight into the buckle. Check to see that it is properly latched by firmly pulling the tongue end of the belt away from the buckle. Ask the front passenger to do the same if that seat is being used.

Thank you for your cooperation. We are indeed sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.