



## Technical Service Bulletin

**Date:** 8/22/2006

**Product Description:** AMSOIL TSO, ASL, and XLF

**Subject:** Excessive oil consumption for 2006 Nissan four-cylinder Altimas and Sentra SE-R's, 2.5L engines.

### OBJECTIVE:

To inform AMSOIL customers that Nissan North America, Inc., has directed its dealers to stop selling certain 2006 model year, four-cylinder Altimas and Nissan Sentra SE-R's because of excessive oil consumption while it continues to investigate potential causes.

### ISSUES:

On June 2, 2006, Nissan North America, Inc., directed its dealers to stop selling certain 2006 model year, four-cylinder Altimas and Nissan Sentra SE-R's because of reports of excessive oil consumption while it continues to investigate potential causes (<http://www.nissannews.com/corporate/news/current/20060602120416.shtml>). According to the release from Nissan North America, dated 6/2/2006, the condition, if not detected or addressed properly, could lead to the potential for engine damage, or failure, which could result in a fire in extreme cases. The National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration has been advised of Nissan's action.

According to Nissan North America's 6/2/2006 release, Nissan estimates that about 100,000 Altimas and Sentra SE-R's built between January and May 2006 may be subject to excessive oil consumption. There have been roughly 215 reports of excessive oil consumption, mostly from rental-car fleets, and 17 reports of engine fires, resulting in one minor injury.

### TECHNICAL DISCUSSION:

According to Nissan North America's 6/2/2006 release, Nissan is aggressively working to find a definite cause and solution for the condition. Nissan is advising owners of these vehicles that a frequent check of the engine oil level should be performed. The 6/2/2006 release states if the engine oil level is kept at the proper level, there should be no engine damage, no risk of engine failure, or a resulting fire. If the engine oil is not registered at all on the dipstick, customers are urged to immediately add oil and

bring their vehicle to a Nissan dealer.

According to the July, 2006 issue of OATS Bulletin ([www.oats.co.uk/content/](http://www.oats.co.uk/content/)), the OAT bulletin states Nissan is considering "improper performance of the piston rings" as a possible cause of the excessive oil consumption. The possible result of this is oil can be consumed too rapidly, thereby causing engine damage or even an engine fire.

### RECOMMENDATION:

AMSOIL TSO, ASL, and XLF are all very good choices for the Nissan vehicles in question. In a mechanically sound engine, AMSOIL Motor Oils can reduce oil consumption. AMSOIL Synthetic Motor Oils have lower volatility, outperforming conventional petroleum motor oils. Volatility is an indicator of high temperature burn-off and chemical breakdown. Using AMSOIL minimizes oil consumption, as well as heat, friction, and wear. However, this should not be taken to mean that AMSOIL Motor Oils are "cure-alls" for engines that consume oil because of mechanical problems.

Purchasers of these Nissan vehicles should take extra precautions to protect their purchases by following the OEM's direction regarding this mechanical issue. The 6/2/2006 release from Nissan North America states that Nissan has extended the engine portion of the powertrain coverage of the vehicle's warranty on the Altimas and Sentra SE-R's built during the January to May 2006 period. The extended warranty is increased to 84 months, or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Unless Nissan contacts the purchaser with further information, they recommend in addition to following the instructions in the owners manual regarding engine oil, consumers check their engine oil level every 700 miles and top off the oil level to the "H" indicator on the dip stick if it is below this mark.

**Reference source:** [www.nissannews.com/corporate/news/current/arch.php](http://www.nissannews.com/corporate/news/current/arch.php)  
[www.oats.co.uk/content/](http://www.oats.co.uk/content/)

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