TEST RESULTS





Comments

Driver knee airbag

The Almera's close relative, the Tino MPV, has out-performed it in these tests. The Almera's poorer protection for its driver, especially his chest and legs was mostly to blame. That said, this remains a competent performance and marks a big improvement over the previous-generation Almera.

Front impact

The body structure was found to be unstable post-impact. This means it was difficult to predict how it might behave in more severe accidents. Airbags were fitted as standard for the driver and passenger. Although Nissan padded the steering column to protect the driver, it was insufficient to prevent injuries in a severe impact. The front belts had reel-mounted pre-tensioners to reduce injury risks. The centre rear seat was equipped with a three-point inertia reel belt that gives superior protection to that of a two-point static lap belt.

Side impact

The side chest and head airbag gave adequate protection in the side impact and also in the pole test although it did not deploy fully to protect the driver. The driver was struck in the abdomen by the armrest, increasing his risk of injury slightly.

Child occupant

The rear outboard belts were adapted to tighten around a child restraint. A three-language label on the belt webbing explained this. The passenger airbag warning label on the stowed passenger's sun visor was well designed but could be peeled off easily. The restraints chosen by Nissan were a forward facing universal Römer King for the 3 year-old and a Römer Peggy for the 18-month-old. These were only just compatible with the car's belts. For the Römer King this meant that it could not be tightened satisfactorily and allowed the child's head to come within striking distance of objects within the car. The 18-month-old was protected, although testers noted a high neck load which is likely with any child of this age if placed in a forward -facing restraint.

Pedestrian

The bonnet leading edge and bumper gave protection but did not score well. The bonnet was friendly where a child's head might strike.