

November 23, 1999

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter, Esq.
Director, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA

Re: Defect Information Report

Ms. DeMeter:


In accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.5 Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc. (MMMA) hereby furnishes this Defect Information Report (MMMA reference number 990GND0095), which contains details of a recall campaign regarding a potential safety related defect in certain 1999 and 2000 model MMMA manufactured vehicles. The potential exists in these vehicles for a battery harness failure which controls the directional / hazard lamps.

The distributor of the affected vehicles, Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc., (MMSA), will implement this recall action, acting as an agent of MMMA.⁽¹⁾

The subject recall is expected to start in January 2000. Copies of the Owner Notification Letter and the Service Bulletin will be forwarded to the NHTSA by MMSA prior to customer notification.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (309) 888-8900 or Mr. J. Bachman at (309) 888-8943.

Sincerely,



Jerry Berwanger
Quality Control Department
Vice President
Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc.

Attachment

⁽¹⁾ Mitsubishi Motor Sales of the Caribbean (MMSA) will act as our agent for vehicles in Puerto Rico.

Defect Information Report

99V- 333 (02)

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc. hereby submits a Defect Information Report for certain 1999 and 2000 model year vehicles. The contents of this report have been arranged to follow the sequence set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 § 573.5(c).

1. The manufacturer's name:

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc.

2. Identification of the vehicles and defect item;

<u>Make</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>
Mitsubishi	Galant V6 Federal emissions	1999 ~ 2000	5/27/98 ~ 11/3/99
Mitsubishi	Eclipse V6 Federal emissions	2000	4/99 ~ 11/30/99

Item: Harness, Battery Cable.

Part Numbers: MR394685, MR461061, MR515881 and MR515882.

3. Total number of vehicles:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Production Volume</u>
Mitsubishi	Galant for U.S. Federal	11,282
Mitsubishi	Eclipse for U.S. Federal	7,975 *
Mitsubishi	Galant for Puerto Rico	481
Mitsubishi	Eclipse for Puerto Rico	51 *
		19,789

99V-333.001
 99V-333.002
 * estimated volumes

4. Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the potential defect:

It is impossible to estimate the actual number of vehicles that will develop a defect, however, owners of all potentially affected Mitsubishi Galant and Eclipse equipped with a V6 and Federal emissions equipment will be notified, and those vehicles will be included in this campaign.

5. Description of the defect including summary:

The battery cable harness may become heat damaged by the front exhaust manifold which may cause grounded circuits.

This circuit failure may cause any of the following 4 conditions:

- 1) The engine will not start because the main fuse will blow if the power lead is grounded.
- 2) The low oil pressure warning lamp will illuminate if the signal wire is grounded.

- 3) The A/C system will become inoperative if the lead to the magnetic clutch is grounded.
- 4) The turn signal / hazard lamps will become inoperative if the voltage monitor lead is grounded.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

In July 1999 Mitsubishi received Galant warranty claim information concerning early rental fleet vehicles and the operation of air conditioning systems. This led Mitsubishi to begin an investigation, resulting in a review of returned parts. An analysis of the warranty information, together with the returned parts, led to Mitsubishi's decision to conduct a recall campaign.

7. Test results for a noncompliance:

Not applicable.

8. Description of the proposed remedy:

- Owners of all affected vehicles will be notified and encouraged to bring their vehicles in for modification.
- Dealers will remove and discard a metal manifold bracket, from Galant models only, (Eclipse has no such bracket).
- Dealers will first inspect the harness. If the harness wires show no damage, the dealer will install a heat insulator along with heat resistant harness clips. If the harness wires do show damage, the dealers will install a new harness with preinstalled integral heat protection.

9. Launch date:

The estimated launch date for customer notification is January 2000 when an appropriate supply of parts becomes available and the customer notification letters and service bulletin are completed.

10. Notices, bulletins and communication:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc, acting as our agent will provide the NHTSA with copies of the customer notification letter, the service bulletin and any other appropriate communications under separate cover.

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of the Caribbean (MMSC) will act as our agent concerning Puerto Rico vehicles. This includes the execution of the field fix campaign and reporting completion ratios.