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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

May 5, 2000

Mr. Jonathan D. White, Chief
Technical Analysis Branch
Safety Assurance (Room 5319)
NHTSA ODI
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 6400
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-0064

RE: Defect Information Report

00V-132 (01)

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to the requirements of 49CFR Part 573, Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc. (MMSA) hereby submits the following defect information report.

Some of the information in this notification was provided by the vehicle manufacturer, Mitsubishi Motors Australia, Ltd. (MMAL).

The production of such information should not be construed as an admission that NHTSA, or any other governmental agency, or court, has any jurisdiction over MMAL, or that MMSA in any way controls or has the ability to control MMAL or its documents. Any jurisdictional or related objections in any future proceeding, investigation, or court action are hereby reserved.

The contents of this report have been arranged to follow the sequence set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 §573.5.

1. The manufacturer's name:

Mitsubishi Motors Australia, Ltd.

2. Vehicles involved in this notification:

The vehicles involved in this notification are certain 2000 model year Diamante vehicles.

3. Total number of vehicles:

Approximately 7,000 vehicles.

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 vehicles will be notified and those vehicles will be included in this campaign.



5. Description of the defect including summary:

The head of the screw that holds the retaining clip for the parking brake shoe may become brittle and break off. If the screw head breaks off, the parking brake shoe retainer clip can become dislodged and may result in the parking brake dragging and/or failure of the parking brake to properly hold. In a very rare case, the parking brake shoe may seize. Though there have been no accidents or injuries involving this parking brake problem, seizure of the parking brake shoe, especially on wet or snow covered roads, may result in lockup of one of the rear wheels.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America received, and passed to Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited, complaints and warranty information concerning the operation of the parking brake system. While most of the data about the parking brake were confined to noise, a number of complaints indicated either failure of the park brake to hold or in a very rare case that a wheel had locked up. Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited requested that parts replaced on some of the subject vehicles be returned for analysis. The review of the complaints and warranty information, together with the returned parts analysis, led to a decision by Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited to request Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America to conduct a recall campaign.

7. Test results for a noncompliance:

Not applicable.

8. Description of the proposed remedy:

Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited is currently studying the best and most effective remedy. Details of our remedial plan will be forwarded to you in the next few weeks.

9. Notices, bulletins and communication:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America will provide NHTSA with a draft owner notification and technical bulletin under separate cover as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,



Kent Reeves, Manager
Product Engineering and Technical Compliance
Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc.
Telephone (714) 372-6362 Fax (714) 892-4131
E-mail kreeves@mmsa.com



June 5, 2000



Mr. Jonathan D. White, Chief
Technical Analysis Branch
Safety Assurance (Room 5319)
NHTSA ODI
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Defect Information Report Amendment (RE: 00V-132)

Dear Mr. White:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc. (MMSA) submits this letter to amend and supplement our Part 573.5 - Defect & Noncompliance Information Report submitted to your office on May 5, 2000 for 2000 model year Diamante.

Some of the information in this notification was provided by the vehicle manufacturer, Mitsubishi Motors Australia Ltd. (MMAL).

The production of such information should not be construed as an admission that NHTSA, or any other governmental agency, or court, has any jurisdiction over MMAL, or that MMSA in any way controls or has the ability to control MMAL or its documents. Any jurisdictional or related objections in the future proceeding, investigation, or court action are hereby reserved.

The contents of this report have been arranged to follow the sequence set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 § 573.5.

1. The manufacturer's name:

Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited.

2. Vehicles involved in this notification: (amended)

The vehicles involved in this notification are certain 1999 and 2000 model year Diamante vehicles. (Production range is from March 1, 1999 through May 11, 2000).

3. Total number of vehicles: (amended)

Approximately 9,250 vehicles.

4. Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:

It is impossible to estimate the actual number of vehicles that will develop a defect; however, owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified and those vehicles will be included in this campaign.

5. Description of the defect including summary:

The head of the screw that holds the retaining clip for the parking brake shoe may become brittle and break off. If the screw head breaks off, the parking brake shoe retainer clip can become dislodged and may result in the parking brake dragging, and/or failure of the parking brake to properly hold. In a very rare case, the parking

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Mr. Jonathan D. White
June 5, 2000
Page Two

brake shoe may seize. Though there have been no accidents or injuries involving this parking brake problem, seizure of the parking brake shoe, especially on wet or snow covered roads, may result in lockup of one of the rear wheels.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America received, and passed to, Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited, complaints and warranty information concerning the operation of the parking brake system. While most of the data about the parking brake were confined to noise, a number of complaints indicated either failure of the park brake to hold, or in a very rare case that a wheel had locked up. Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited requested that parts replaced on some of the subject vehicles be returned for analysis. The review of the complaints and warranty information, together with the returned parts analysis, led to a decision by Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited to request Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America to conduct a recall campaign.

7. Test results for noncompliance:

Not applicable.

8. Description of the proposed remedy: (amended)

MMAL has introduced a new low hardness screw from May 11, 2000. An improved process control system for screw hardness has been introduced to maintain the required specification.

MMSA will launch a safety recall to all owners of the certain 1999 and 2000 model year Diamante vehicles. The recall will be to replace the screw with the low hardness one.

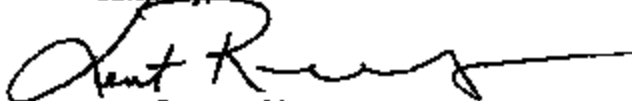
To aid the recall campaign, the new screw is black to distinguish it from the old screw, which is dull silver. The difference in color will enable easy identification of the new screws in the kit of recall parts.

MMSA expects to launch this campaign during the first week of July, 2000.

9. Notices, bulletins and communication:

These items will be forwarded to you as soon as they become available.

Sincerely,



Kent Reeves, Manager
Product Engineering & Technical Compliance
Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc.
(KR00-0039)

