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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

00V-311 (a)

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc. (MMSA) submits this letter pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.5 - Defect and Noncompliance Information Report. The vehicle manufacturer, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) furnished some of the information provided below. 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 MMC or that MMSA in anyway controls or has the ability to control MMC or its documents. Any jurisdictional or related objections in any future proceeding, investigation information or court action are hereby reserved. Accordingly, the following is the information required by 49 C.F.R. Part 573.5.

1. Manufacturer's Name: Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Inc.
2. Vehicles potentially containing the defect:

Make	Line	Model Years	Manufacturing Dates
Mitsubishi	Mirage	1997 through 1999	3/96 to 2/99
Mitsubishi	Montero	1992 through 1996	1/91 to 1/96
Mitsubishi	Montero Sport	1997 through 1999	8/96 to 3/99

3. Total number of vehicles:

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles
Mirage	82,000
Montero	42,000
Montero Sport	86,000

4. Approximate percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect:

MMC does not know how many of the potentially affected vehicles actually contain the defect; however, it is believed that the number is small. Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified and subject vehicles included in this campaign.

5. Description of the defect:

The bolt holding the front crankshaft pulley to the end of the crankshaft may not have been tightened to the proper torque specification during the engine assembly process. As a



result, there is a possibility that the bolt will become loose or break, allowing the crankshaft pulley to move about on the end of the crankshaft, causing rattling noises and the potential loss of accessory drive belts. In the worst case, the pulley may separate from the front of the crankshaft.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

During a recent investigation by the Japanese Ministry of Transportation (MOT), it was judged by MOT that the failure of the front crankshaft bolt merited a Recall Campaign under the Japanese regulations. Japanese regulations require a recall campaign be conducted whenever a component is found to be non-complying because of a design or manufacturing process. While MMC does not believe that the failure of the crankshaft pulley bolt is a safety related defect under the meaning of US law, they have determined that because a recall was launched in the Japanese market, such a recall should also be conducted in the United States. MMSA warranty records show low failure rates for the crankshaft bolt, most of which involve a complaint of noise or rattle, and none of the customer complaints indicate that an unreasonable risk to safety exists with the loosening or breakage of the crankshaft bolt.

7. Test results or data used to determine noncompliance:

Not Applicable

8. Description of proposed remedy:

All owners of affected vehicles will be notified and asked to bring their vehicles to dealers. The dealers will remove the front crankshaft pulley bolt, clean and apply oil to the threads and contact surfaces and then reinstall the bolt and tighten it to the proper torque specifications. On Mirage 1.5 liter vehicles, built between March 1996 and March 1997, the dealers will remove and discard the original bolt, clean and cut additional threads in the end of the crankshaft and install a new slightly longer and stronger crankshaft pulley bolt as well as the cleaning and oiling procedure outlined above for the other models.

9. Notices and Bulletins:

MMSA 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.  
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