



January 16, 2001

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

01V-011.001 (01)

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 001SND0124), which contains details of a recall campaign regarding certain 1999 through 2001 model year MMMA manufactured vehicles. The potential for leakage of automatic transmission fluid exists in these vehicles.

The distributors of the affected vehicles, Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc. (MMSA), and DaimlerChrysler will implement this recall action acting as agents of MMMA⁽¹⁾. The expected start date for the subject recall has not been determined, but no delays are expected. Copies of the Owner Notification Letters and the Service Bulletins will be forwarded to the NHTSA by our distributors prior to customer notification. Because we have 2 distributors implementing this action, we would like to request that 2 separate recall numbers be issued.

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

attachment

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

Defect Information ReportOIV-011 (02)
2001

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc. hereby submits a Defect Information Report regarding certain 1999 through 2001 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;
All of the following vehicles are automatic transmission equipped.

<u>Make</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>
Mitsubishi	Galant	1999 ~ 2001	05/98 ~ 12/00
Mitsubishi	Eclipse	2000 ~ 2001	04/99 ~ 1/01
Mitsubishi	Eclipse Spyder	2001	01/00 ~ 1/01
Chrysler	Sebring Coupe	2001	07/00 ~ 1/01
Dodge	Stratus Coupe	2001	06/00 ~ 1/01
Mitsubishi vehicles for Puerto Rico		1999 ~ 2001	05/98 ~ 10/00

Item: Part Name: Hose, oil cooler, automatic transmission
Part Numbers: MR497156, MR497159, MR355526
MR355527, MR355320, MR355473

3. Total number of vehicles:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Production Volume</u>
Mitsubishi	Galant	203,176
Mitsubishi	Eclipse	56,655
Mitsubishi	Eclipse Spyder	11,396
Chrysler	Sebring Coupe	15,028
Dodge	Stratus Coupe	13,411
Mitsubishi vehicles for Puerto Rico		2,801
		<u>302,467</u>

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 automatic transmission equipped vehicles will be notified, and those vehicles will be included in this campaign.

5. Description of the defect including summary:

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It has been determined that a hose manufacturing process allowed the reinforcement yard to breach the inner layer of some hoses weakening the inner wall and, over time resulting in leakage of the automatic transmission fluid. ATF leakage from the cooler hoses causes transaxle driveability problems and smoke if oil contacts front exhaust pipe.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

Mitsubishi has received warranty information concerning leakage of automatic transmission fluid, and the diagnosis revealed that the leakage originated from the oil cooler hoses. Further analysis revealed that when very specific conditions were met during the hose manufacturing process, inner wall thickness could be jeopardized resulting in varying degrees of porosity.

This investigation led MMMA to conclude that there may be a significant customer concern, which in turn led to MMMA'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 to their dealer who will replace the hose assembly for the A/T oil cooler.

9. Launch date:

The exact date for customer notification is not yet determined, but it will be launched immediately following the receipt of an appropriate supply of parts to support this campaign.

10. Notices, bulletins and communication:

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc. (MMSA), DaimlerChrysler, and Mitsubishi Motor Sales of the Caribbean (MMSC) for Puerto Rico, acting as our agents will provide the NHTSA with copies of the customer notification letter, the service bulletin and any other appropriate communications under separate cover.