

April 23, 2004



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

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P.O. BOX 6400  
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-0600

Re: Defect Information Report

04V-197  
(3 pages)

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

In accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.5 Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Mitsubishi Motor North America, Inc. (MMNA) hereby furnishes this Defect Information Report, which contains details of a potential defect in the trailer hitch wiring harness supplied by Cequant Electrical Products, Inc. as a dealer installed option on certain 2004 model year Endeavor and 2003-04 model year Outlander vehicles distributed by MMNA.

1. The Distributor and Equipment Manufacturer name:

**Vehicle:**

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.  
6400 Katella Ave.  
Cypress, California 90630

**Equipment:**

Trailer Hitch Wiring Harness and Control Module:  
Cequant Electrical Products, Inc.  
101 Spires Parkway  
Tekonsha, MI. 49092  
Contact: Bob Lewis, President  
Cequant Electrical Products, Inc.  
(517) 767-1222

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2. Identification of the vehicles and defect item:

2004 Model Year Endeavor with dealer-installed trailer hitch wiring harness, Part Number AEN04YHX02 and 2003-2004 Model Year Outlander with dealer installed trailer hitch wiring harness Part Number ACU03YHX02.

3. Total number of vehicles:

Approximately 1,400 Endeavor vehicles and 775 Outlander vehicles may have been equipped with the subject dealer-installed wiring harness and control module.



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

**It is estimated that 100% of the dealer installed wiring harness control modules installed will contain the potential defect.**

5. **Defect Description**

**The electronic control module that is a part of the vendor-supplied trailer hitch wiring harness can overheat as a result of a current draw from the trailer lamp circuit beyond that supported by the electronic control module.**

6. **Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:**

**In March 2004 MMNA became aware of fire damage to the left rear quarter panel of a 2004 Model Year Mitsubishi Endeavor. Inspection of the vehicle showed the cause to be overheating of the trailer hitch wiring harness module. An inspection of the trailer that the vehicle was pulling at the time of the incident showed that additional lamps had been connected to the trailer running lamp circuit. These additional lamps caused a higher amperage loading to the control module than was anticipated for a four pin trailer hitch wiring connector. Even though the amperage loading of the trailer lamps running lamp circuit was higher than allowed by the SAE standard J1239, a recall was judged to be in order to install new control modules for those vehicles equipped with the subject trailer towing wiring harness. Since the Outlander vehicle uses the same wiring harness control module, it will also be included in the recall.**

7. **Test results for a noncompliance:**

**Not applicable.**

8. **Description of the proposed remedy:**

**All 2004 Mitsubishi Endeavor and the 2003-04 Outlander owners will be notified and advised that if they have a Mitsubishi dealer-installed trailer hitch wiring harness, they are not to use the harness until a newly designed replacement is provided and can be installed. They will be instructed that parts will be available at their dealership for installation free of charge within 45 days from owner notification.**

9. **Launch date:**

**Owner notification is expected to begin within 30 days.**

10. Notices, bulletins and communication:

**Copies of the owner letters, bulletins will be provided as soon as they are available.**

11. Reimbursements:

**Owners seeking reimbursement for any expenses relating to this recall will be directed in the notification letter to contact Mitsubishi Customer Relations department for instructions on how to apply for a refund.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at one of the contact points listed below.

Sincerely,



**Kent Reeves,  
Manager, Technical Compliance  
and Quality Engineering  
Phone 714-372-6362  
Fax 714-934-4858  
Email [kreeves@mmsa.com](mailto:kreeves@mmsa.com)**