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July 1, 2004

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

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

04V-319
(3 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report

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 that may result in fuel leakage on certain 2002 ~ 2004 model year Montero vehicles manufactured by Mitsubishi Motors Corporation in Japan.

This report covers vehicles distributed by Mitsubishi Motor North America, Inc., and Mitsubishi Motor Sales of the Caribbean (MMSA). This recall has nothing to do with the recent release of recalls in Japan, it only applies to vehicles equipped with on-board refueling vapor recovery systems (ORVR).

1. **Manufacturer Name**
Mitsubishi Motors Corporation

2. **Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect**

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	Montero	2002~2004	April 4, 2001 through May 21, 2004

3. **Total Number of Vehicles**

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles
Montero	41,706 United States
	2,508 Puerto Rico

4. **Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the Defect**

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



Defect Description

When the fuel tank is in the full condition and the vehicle is parked forward on an upward slope, the fuel tank leveling valve may not maintain proper sealing in the event the fuel expands from the rise in ambient temperature. If the fuel-leveling valve does not seal properly, liquid gasoline may leak onto the ground. Gasoline in the presence of an ignition source may result in a fire.

5. Chronological Summary of Events Leading to Determination

Mitsubishi received customer complaints that fuel was leaking after refuel and parked on inclines for 12 to 14 hours. Internal investigation revealed that when the fuel tank was full and the front part of the vehicle was facing forward when parked on an incline, the leveling valve seal worsened and, under very particular conditions, fuel back flow could result in leakage from the vehicle. Accordingly, Mitsubishi decided to conduct a safety recall.

6. Test Results or Data Used to Determine Non-compliance

Not applicable

7. Proposed Remedy Description

All owners of affected vehicles will be notified of the defect by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to dealers to have the leveling valve replaced with modified one.

Dealer and owner notification is expected to begin within approximately 30 days, when an appropriate supply of parts becomes available and the customer notification letters and service bulletin are completed. The Mitsubishi recall number for this campaign will be SR-04-009.

8. Notice(s) and Bulletin(s)

The owner notification and technical bulletin drafts will be provided as soon as they are available.

9. Reimbursements

Owners seeking reimbursement for any expenses relating to this recall will be directed in the notification letter to contact Mitsubishi Customer Relations 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
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