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DEFECTS

MITSUBISHI FUSO

TRUCK OF AMERICA, Inc.

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October 28, 2004

Division Chief, Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-522
(4 pages)

**Subject: Safety Recall Notification on the Steering Knuckle Arm;
Model Years: 1987 - 1989; Models: FE434, FE444**

Dear Division Chief:

Pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 573, Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc. (MFTA) herewith files a defect and noncompliance information report concerning the steering knuckle arm on certain 1987 through 1989 model year FE434, FE444 Mitsubishi Fuso trucks for all states. The contents of this report are arranged to follow the sequence set forth in Section 573.5.

The Dealer Recall Information Bulletin and a sample of the letter that will be sent to each Mitsubishi Fuso truck owner affected by this recall will be forwarded to you upon completion.

Sincerely,

William P. Mohr
Director, Service Operations.
Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc.
Phone: (856) 467-3917 Fax: (856) 467-4685

Enclosure: As stated

Defect and Noncompliance Information Report

1. The manufacturer's name:

Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corporation (MFTBC), Japan

2. Identification of the vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance:

Models	Model Year Range
FE434	1987-1989
FE444	1989

- a) Inclusive dates of manufacture:

Models	Vehicle Production
FE434	October 17, 1986 through March 24, 1989
FE444	December 16, 1988 through March 22, 1989

- b) GVWR or class of truck:

Models	GVWR	Class
FE434	11,600 lbs.	3
FE444	13,500 lbs.	3

- c) Names of the components:

Steering knuckle arm

3. The total number of vehicles or items of equipment potentially containing the defect or noncompliance, and where available, the number of vehicles or items of equipment in each group identified pursuant to paragraph (c) (2) of the section:

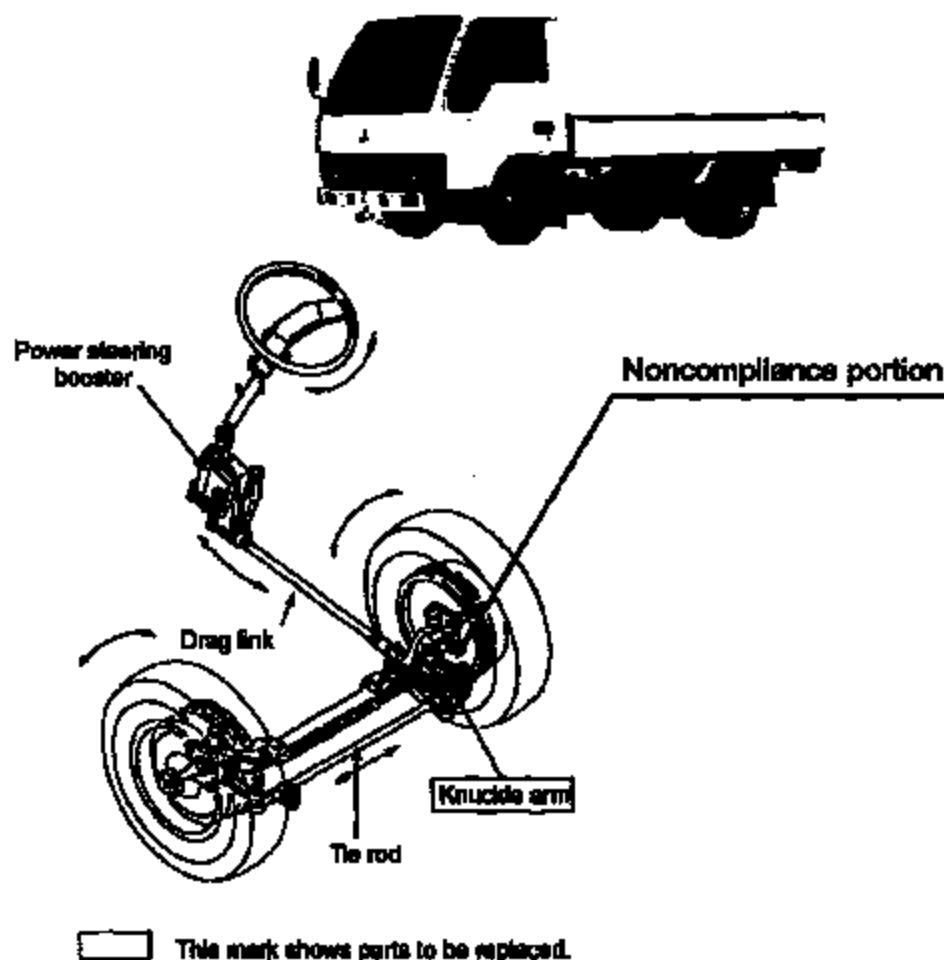
Models	# of Vehicles
87-89 FE434	3,940
89 FE444	244
Totals	4,184

4. The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment specified pursuant to paragraph (c) (2) of the section estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

Unknown

5. A description of the defect or noncompliance, including both a brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location (if applicable) of the defect or noncompliance:

On affected vehicles, the steering system knuckle arm was designed with an insufficient strength margin. Repeated steering operation while stationary, or normal vehicle operation that requires frequent repeated steering operation, could cause the knuckle arm to crack. In the worst case, the vehicle's steering control could become inoperative, causing a crash without warning.



6. In the case of defect, a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their date of receipt:

On October 18, 2004, MFTBC notified MFTA that they had determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety existed and instructed MFTA to perform a safety recall.

After deliberate study of failed sample parts, MFTBC determined that the cause of failure was an improperly designed steering knuckle arm. Repeated steering operation while stationary, or normal vehicle operation that requires frequent repeated steering operation, could cause the knuckle arm to crack. In the worst case, the vehicle's steering control could become inoperative.

MFTA received zero (0) Warranty Service Claims (WSC) and zero (0) Product Quality Reports (PQR) relating to affected vehicles. MFTA has not received any notice of accident or injury relating to the subject components.

7. In the case of noncompliance, the test results or other data on the basis of which the manufacturer determined the existence of the noncompliance:

Not applicable.

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance:

Install a modified steering knuckle arm assembly. Inspect toe-in and adjust if necessary.

MFTA will instruct its Dealer body to initiate a safety recall campaign as soon as the parts and notification become available.

MFTA will inform NHTSA of the campaign schedule as soon as it has been determined.

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer or purchaser:

MFTA will provide NHTSA with a final copy of all related documents when they have been completed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



William P. Mohr
Director, Service Operations
Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America, Inc.
Phone: (856) 467-3917 Fax: (856) 467-4665

- c: K. Idota (MFTBC)
T. Kawai (MFTBC)
H. Imamura (MFTA)