



Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.

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December 16, 2008

Kathleen DeMeter, Esq.
Director, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

08V-680
(3 pages)

RE: 2007 and 2008 Mitsubishi Outlander Brake Lamp Switch (Safety Recall SR-09-001)

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Mitsubishi Motors of North America, Inc. (MMNA) submits this letter pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.5-Defect and Noncompliance Information Report (DIR). This DIR is for a potential safety related concern on certain 2007 and 2008 Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles equipped with LED type stop lamps. The brake lamp switch may malfunction and cause the stop lamps not to illuminate during brake application. The subject vehicles are distributed in the United States by MMNA and in Puerto Rico by Mitsubishi Motor Sales of Caribbean (MMSC). This campaign will be launched in Japan, Europe, Canada, Mexico, and China by their separate distributors.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kent Reeves, National Manager
Product Support & Technical Compliance
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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

1. Manufacturer's Name

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation

2. Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Vehicles of the following model years and manufacturing periods:

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	Outlander	2007-2008	08 Sept 2006 through 28 Dec 2006 01 Nov 2007 through 15 Apr 2008

3. Total Number of Vehicles

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles	
	United States	Puerto Rico
Outlander	19,872	1,621

4. Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the defect:

It is impossible to tell the percentage of vehicles that may experience a malfunction of the stop lamp switch due to the variations in the amount of silicone grease contamination from vehicle to vehicle; however all suspect vehicles will be included in this campaign.

5. Defect Description

The stop lamp switch of the subject vehicles may have been contaminated with silicone grease during vehicle assembly. If the contamination is sufficient, the contact points may become coated with silicone oxide and not allow the brake lamps to be operative on vehicles equipped with LED type brake lamps. The failure of the brake lamps to illuminate when the brakes are applied will not provide warning to following traffic and could result in a crash.

6. Chronological Summary of Events Leading to Determination

Mitsubishi received customer complaints from the Japanese market in November 2007 that the stop lamp does not activate properly. Returned parts investigation showed that the current did not flow due to the silicone oxide on the surface of the contact points. Mitsubishi investigated the manufacturing process of the stop lamp switch and confirmed that silicone was not used in the manufacturing process for the switch itself.

Further investigations revealed that the root cause was that a small amount of silicone grease used to lubricate a cable near the switch was inadvertently being introduced onto the brake lamp switch on the vehicle assembly line. Mitsubishi conducted cyclic electrification tests on contaminated stop lamp switches to verify the formation mechanism of the silicon oxide. It was confirmed that silicone oxide accumulated on the contact point, resulting in failure of the brake lamps to illuminate.

Based on these findings, Mitsubishi in Japan determined that a safety-related defect exists and advised MMNA on December 9, 2008 to conduct a safety recall in the United States, Canada, and other countries.

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

N/A

8. Proposed Remedy Description

All owners of affected vehicles will be notified by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to their local Mitsubishi Motors dealer to replace the stop lamp switch.

9. Notice(s) and Bulletin(s)

The owner notification and technical bulletin drafts will be provided when they become available.

10. 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.

11. Dealer Notification

Mitsubishi has determined that this incident does not constitute an immediate and substantial threat to motor vehicle safety; therefore the three-day dealer notice does not apply. Our schedule for dealer and customer notification will depend on replacement parts availability; however it is anticipated that notification will begin in February 2009.