



**Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.**

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September 8, 2008

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter, Esq.  
Director, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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 safety defect in certain 2005 ~2007 model year Mitsubishi vehicles distributed in the USA by Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. (MMNA) and in Puerto Rico by Mitsubishi Motor Sales of the Caribbean (MMSC). This recall is also being launched in Canada, Oceania, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

**1. The manufacturer's name:**

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.

**2. Identification of the vehicles and defect item;**

Make	Model Year	Model
Mitsubishi	2005-2007	Endeavor
	2005-2007	Galant
	2006-2007	Eclipse Coupe
	2007	Eclipse Spyder

Note: The production period for this campaign was from 17 March 2005 through 20 February 2007. Not all vehicles produced during this time period are subject to this campaign, however all suspect vehicles were produced during this time period.



**3. Total number of vehicles:**

Model	Number Vehicles
Endeavor	10,064
Galant	17,530
Eclipse Coupe	14,540
Eclipse Spyder	3,854

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

**5. Description of the defect including summary:**

The bracket that is the attachment point for the left rear fuel tank mounting strap may have been improperly formed during a metal stamping process. The process may have caused the metal to have “necking” or a split in the area where the bolt that holds one of the two fuel tank straps to the underside of the vehicle. In the event the fuel tank is full and the vehicle is subject to a severe collision, the bracket may break and allow the fuel tank to drop down, possibly causing a fuel leak. Leaking fuel in the vicinity of an ignition source could result in a fire.

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

During routine parts inspection it was discovered that some of the fuel tank strap mounting brackets supplied to the assembly plant in Australia had a necking condition. The components were returned to the supplier to determine the cause. It was discovered that the supplier had substituted a different material than specified by MMC in brackets supplied to assembly plants in both Australia and the United States. The material used did not have the proper elongation characteristics and as a result, would split or neck during the stamping process. MMC conducted extensive testing to determine what the necking would cause and after both bench testing and actual vehicle crash testing, it was determined that there was a slight possibility that the bracket may split in a severe collision and allow the back of the fuel tank to fall down. Because of this, Mitsubishi decided that a recall to inspect for malformed bracket is necessary.

**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 for inspection to see if the left rear fuel tank strap-mounting bracket has necking beyond a specific limit. Vehicles with minor or no necking are not subject to repair and will be returned to the customer. Vehicles with moderate to severe necking will be repaired using a reinforcement cap, a special structural adhesive and a rivet to reinforce the fuel tank mounting bracket.

**9. Launch date:**

The estimated launch date for customer notification is expected to begin in September 2008.

**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 for instructions on how to apply for a refund.

**12. 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent Reeves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Reeves, National Manager,  
Product Support & Technical Compliance  
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