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Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
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February 2, 2010

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

10V-066
(3 Pages)

RE: 2010 Galant A/T Oil Cooler Pipe (Safety Recall SR-10-001)

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 2010 Galant models. The automatic transmission oil cooler pipe assembly on some vehicles may have insufficient plating to prevent corrosion. If the pipe should develop a hole due to corrosion, ATF leakage may occur. ATF in the presence of an ignition source may result in a potential fire hazard.

The subject vehicles are distributed in the United States by MMNA. This campaign will be launched in China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates by their separate distributors.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Bennett
Director, Service
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Telephone: (714) 372-5554
Email: tbennett@mmsa.com

1. Manufacturer’s Name

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. – Manufacturing Division

2. Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Vehicles of the following model years and manufacturing periods:

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	Galant	2010	20 July through 14 September 2009

3. Total Number of Vehicles

Model	Number of Vehicles in U.S.
Galant	2,307

4. Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the defect:

Actual percentages of vehicles with this defect are not known at this time. However, all suspect vehicles will be included in this campaign.

5. Defect Description

A pipe bracket that is welded to the A/T oil cooler pipe assembly may not have received sufficient anti-corrosion plating due to its positioning during the welding process. Corrosion may occur at this location, which could lead to ATF leakage. ATF leakage in the presence of an ignition source may result in a potential fire hazard.

6. Chronological Summary of Events Leading to Determination

On May 19, 2009 the pipe/bracket spot welding machine at the pipe vendor had maintenance performed. At this time, the bolt holding the lower welding electrode in position was not properly tightened, potentially allowing a slight gap at the pipe/bracket interface during the welding process. When the pipe assembly was immersed in the corrosion plating solution, this gap may have trapped an air bubble against the surface of the pipe, preventing adhesion of the anti-corrosion material to the pipe/bracket assembly. On July 31, the vendor corrected the welding electrode position.

Based on these findings, Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. – Manufacturing Division determined that a safety-related defect may exist and advised MMNA-Sales Division on January 27, 2010 to conduct a safety recall.

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 have the A/T oil cooler pipe assembly inspected. If insufficient plating is found during inspection, the dealer will replace the A/T oil cooler pipe assembly with new parts containing appropriate anti-corrosion plating. There will be no charges to the customer.

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 2010.