

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 11:16 am, Aug 01, 2012



SALES DIVISION
6400 KATELLA AVENUE
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-5208
(714) 372-6000
TELEFAX (714) 373-1020
mitsubishica@s.com

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 6400
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-0064

July 31, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

12V-372
3 Pages

RE: 2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV Airbag Sensor Safety Recall

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. (MMNA) submits this letter pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.6 - Defect and Noncompliance Information Report (DIR). This DIR contains details of a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety in the airbag sensor on certain 2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV.

MMNA is unaware of any injuries and/or accidents related to this issue.

The subject vehicles are distributed in the United States by MMNA. This recall campaign will also be launched in Canada.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Swearingen", written over a white background.

Don Swearingen
Vice President, Fixed Operations
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Telephone 714.372.6110
Fax: 714.799.4626
Email: DSwearingen@mmsa.com



Sec 573.6 (c) (1) - Manufacturer's Name

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation

Designated U.S. Agency

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc
6400 Katella Avenue
Cypress, California 90630-0064

Manufacturer of the Airbag sensor

Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
2-3-33, Miwa, Sanda City, Hyogo 669-1513, Japan
Tel.81-79-559-3403

Sec 573.6 (c) (2) - Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Vehicles of the following model years and manufacturing periods:

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	i-MiEV	2012	November 4, 2011 – December 15, 2011

Vehicles manufactured before or after the above period are not equipped with the potentially defective part.

Sec 573.6 (c) (3) - Total Number of Vehicles

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles - United States
i-MiEV	261

Sec 573.6 (c) (4) - Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the Defect:

The percentage of vehicles that may actually experience the subject condition is unknown. However, the number of vehicles equipped with potentially defective parts is believed to be minimal based on analysis of the manufacturing record.

Sec 573.6 (c) (5) - Defect Description

Certain sensors manufactured during the subject time period were incompatible with the self-diagnostic software used by the SRS system. This incompatibility may be detected during the initial SRS diagnostic check that occurs when the ignition switch is turned ON. If this incompatibility is detected, the SRS airbag warning lamp will then illuminate. Subsequent to illumination of the SRS airbag warning lamp, if the vehicle were to be involved in a collision, the side and curtain airbags may not deploy or the frontal airbags may deploy late.

Sec 573.6 (c) (6) - Chronological Summary of Events Leading to Determination

In April 2012, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) received a customer complaint in Japan involving a Japanese-domestic vehicle in which the SRS airbag warning lamp was continuously illuminated. MMC immediately began investigating this condition, including a thorough inspection of the subject vehicle.

From May 2012 through July 2012, MMC's detailed investigation of the returned parts led to the discovery of certain sensors manufactured between November 4, 2011 and December 15, 2011 that were incompatible with the self-diagnostic software used by the SRS system.

On July 25 2012, MMC decided to initiate a recall in the US for vehicles potentially equipped with these incompatible (defective) airbag sensors. Although there are no known claims in the US involving potentially incompatible airbag sensors, any customer experiencing this condition will be alerted by illumination of the SRS warning lamp and the customer may bring their vehicle to a local dealership for evaluation and repair.

Sec 573.6 (c) (8) - Proposed Remedy Description, Reimbursement, and Notification Schedule

The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace all potentially incompatible airbag sensors with new, compatible units. There will be no charge to the customer. Owners seeking reimbursement for any expenses associated with this recall will be directed in the notification letter to contact Mitsubishi Customer Relations for instructions on how to apply for a refund.

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 parts availability. MMNA is working internally to determine the dealer and customer notification date and will update accordingly.

Sec 573.6 (c) (11) – Manufacturer's Campaign Number

SR-12-003