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SALES DIVISION

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January 25, 2013

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

RE: 2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV Vacuum Pump 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 vacuum pump 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 dark ink, appearing to read "Don Swearingen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Don Swearingen
Vice President, Fixed Operations
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Telephone 714.372.6110
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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 Vacuum Pump

Mikuni Corporation
2828, Hansei, Kikugawa, Shizuoka-pref. 439-0019, Japan
Telephone 81-537-36-2130

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

Certain vehicles of the following model years and manufacturing periods:

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	i-MiEV	2012	December 2, 2011 – September 7, 2012

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

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles - United States
i-MiEV	1,402

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

The percentage of vehicles that may experience the subject condition is unknown.

Sec 573.6 (c) (5) – Defect Description

The brake system vacuum pump equipped on affected vehicles may contain a vane built with compromised structural integrity due to an inappropriate manufacturing process. If the affected vehicle continues to be used under this condition, the vane in the vacuum pump may break, causing the vacuum pump to be inoperable. This could result in increased stopping distances. The brake warning lamp will illuminate and an audible warning will alert the vehicle operator if the vacuum pump becomes inoperable.



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

In June 2012, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) received a customer complaint in Japan in which the brake system did not function properly. An audible warning alerted the vehicle operator. MMC immediately began an investigation and inspected the subject part.

In July 2012, the supplier conducted a detailed investigation of the vacuum pump and confirmed that the vane was broken, causing the vacuum pump to be locked. However, the cause was unable to be determined since there were no problems with the material characteristics of the broken parts.

From August through October 2012, MMC confirmed that there have been no issues with the manufacturing process at the tier one supplier in Japan and the investigation continued.

From November through December 2012, as a result of the continued investigation of the manufacturing process at the tier 2 supplier in Germany, it was discovered that the surface pressure of the vane might become higher due to the variability of the clamping force when fixing the material to the jig, or from the intrusion of foreign material in between the material and the clamp, which could result in a fracture in the vane. It was also discovered that the alcohol check for detecting a fracture generated during the manufacturing process had been discontinued since November 2011.

On January 23, 2013, MMC concluded its investigation and determined that this condition relates to motor vehicle safety, and advised MMNA to conduct a safety recall in the US for vehicles potentially equipped with this vacuum pump condition.

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

The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace all potential vacuum pumps with new 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-13-001

