



14V-366
(3 pages)

Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.

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RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 8:42 am, Jun 25, 2014

June 24, 2014

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: 2007-2013 MY Mitsubishi Outlander Power Steering Pressure Tube

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 Reports (DIR). This DIR contains details of a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety involving the 2013 MY Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles and replacement (service parts) automatic transaxles installed in certain 2007-2012 MY Outlander vehicles.

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,

Mark Chaffin
Vice President, Fixed Operations
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.

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

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

Certain vehicles of the following model years, manufacturing period, and replacement automatic transaxle manufacturing dates:

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Manufacturing Period
Mitsubishi	Outlander	2013	September 3, 2012 – March 29, 2013

Make	Line	Model Year(s)	Replacement Automatic Transaxle Manufacturing Dates
Mitsubishi	Outlander	2007-2012	July 23, 2012 – Current

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

Vehicle Line	Number of Vehicles
Outlander	203

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

The percentage of vehicles that may experience the subject condition is 100%.

573.6 (c) (5) - Defect Description

Certain 2013 MY Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles with a 6-speed automatic transmission may have been manufactured with insufficient clearance between the power steering pressure tube and the bosses on the converter housing of the automatic transaxle. This may cause the power steering pressure tube to rust from abrasive contact between the two components. In the worst case scenario, a pin hole could develop and allow for power steering fluid leakage, which can result in the loss of power steering assist and increase the risk of crash.

2012 MY and older Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles were not manufactured with the subject automatic transaxles, however, a total of six replacement (service parts) automatic transaxles with the bosses on the converter housing were installed in certain 2007-2012 MY Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles and are included in the recall population.



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

In February 2013, during a routine inspection of finished vehicles at the Mizushima assembly plant, an abnormal noise was observed. Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) immediately launched an investigation.

From March to June 2013, MMC confirmed the abnormal noise resulted from an insufficient clearance between the power steering pressure tube and the converter housing of the automatic transaxle. MMC also found that clearance between the components was not considered when bosses were added on the converter housing. MMC conducted tests to determine the impact abrasive contact had on the components. As a result, MMC confirmed the bosses were more susceptible to wear than the tube since the bosses were made of aluminum while the tube was made of steel.

From July 2013 to June 2014, although there were no reported field claims, MMC continued its investigation, including the number of vehicles installed with the subject converter housing and the potential future safety risk. MMC assessed that although this condition does not present an immediate risk to motor vehicle safety, rust may form from abrasive contact between the subject components. After an extended time period (greater than three years), a pin hole could eventually develop in the power steering pressure tube, resulting in power steering fluid leakage.

On June 17, 2014, MMC decided that field action is necessary as a safety recall and advised MMNA to conduct a safety recall in the US.

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

Owners of all affected vehicles will be notified and encouraged to bring their vehicles in for repair. The power steering pressure tube and return tube will be replaced with a countermeasure unit at no charge to the customer. Owners seeking reimbursement for any expenses associated with this recall will be directed in the notification letter to contact the Mitsubishi Customer Relations Department for instructions on how to apply for a refund.

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

573.6 (c) (11) - Manufacturer's Campaign Number

SR-14-006

