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To: Ford Motor Company
Cc: NHTSA

2005 JAN 12 PM 11:52

From: Jason Syth

Date: December 28, 2004

Re: Safety Issue with Potential to Cause Injury - 2005 Ford Focus

I would like to bring your attention to a safety issue in regard to your latest model (2005) of the Ford Focus. I have discovered that, when driving for an extended period of time with the heater on, especially when directed to the floor only, the back of the storage tray beneath the controls for the heating and air conditioning system becomes extremely hot. On a couple of occasions, I could only touch the back of the storage tray for a second or two before I had to pull my fingers away to avoid burning. I own the 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE, but I assume that this problem would also affect the ZX3, ZX5, and ZXW models, all in the S, SE, and SES versions. Please look into this matter as soon as possible so that others may avoid burning themselves.

Also, on an unrelated issue, there appears to be an error in the Owner's Guide for the 2005 Focus. On the bottom of page 16, the picture is titled "AM/FM STEREO WITH SINGLE CD/MP3 - PREMIUM." The picture itself, however, appears to be for the 6 CD unit as noted by the "CD-6" above the CD slot. Please fix this error in future printings of the guidebook.

Thank you for your time and your attention to these matters.

Slinger, WI

NAE
ADJ
1/18/05