



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

AUG 24 2005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Monroe, MI [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10132384

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 14, 2005, requesting to know more about the event data recorder (EDR)/crash data recorder (CDR), a.k.a., blackbox, in your model year (MY) 1998 Ford Taurus vehicle. Your correspondence was received on August 2, 2005.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

NHTSA does not maintain the EDR/CDR information you are seeking, nor does it regulate the use or disposition of the information collected by these recorders. If you have not done so, you may consider contacting Ford Motor Company (Ford) for information concerning the operational characteristics (i.e., acceleration rate and stopping distance) of your MY 1998 Ford Taurus vehicle. Additionally, you may consider contacting Ford or the Michigan State Office of the Attorney General for information concerning the ownership and disposition of data collected by a EDR/CDR, and whether law enforcement personnel in your State receive training in the recovery of this data.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can contact our toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-327-4236. One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A Hotline representative will return your call.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ) is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. If you do not have access to the Internet, please use the enclosed VOQ to inform this agency of any future motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment safety problems you may experience. Also, crash test data and a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Safety Defects Program Assistant, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Jimenez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, simpler font.

Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure