



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

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

JAN 24 2006

██████████
██████████
Cincinnati, OH ██████████

NVS-216 aaj
Ref. No. 10139329

Dear ██████████:

This in response to our telephone conversation of January 24, 2006, with regard to the failure of the left front ball joint on your 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis.

As you are aware certain type of vehicles were recalled (Recall No. 99V-322000, summary enclosed) when our investigation (PE98-045, closing resume enclosed) indicated that the ball joint on these vehicle would fail. On January 3, 2003 a Recall Query (RQ03-002) was opened to determine if the ball joint failure other than those previously recalled would represent a safety-related problem in accordance to our guide lines. On July 3, 2003, investigation RQ03-002 was closed. That investigation determined that the age-adjusted failure rate of the subject ball joints was low in comparison with the prior ball joint failure investigation that resulted in a recall. Enclosed are a copy or the closing resume and the summary report.

I hope this provides the information you are seeking. Detailed information is available on NHTSA's Web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems. If there are question concerning the above, please contact Mr. Bruce York, Principal Investigator, at (202) 366-6938.

Sincerely

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



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