



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

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

FEB 22 2006

Mr. E. Byrne Edwards
312 West University
Lafayette, LA 70502

NVS-216mrc
Ref No. 10148705

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 11, 2006, concerning your client, [REDACTED]'s 2005 Ford 450 truck. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on January 23, 2006. Due to limited resources we were not able to respond to you in a timelier manner. We regret any inconvenience our delay may have caused you.

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.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

To determine any previous owners of your client's 2005 Ford F-450 truck, you will need to check with your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

We have enclosed the safety recall summary on the 2004 Ford F-450 trucks, however you will need to contact your local Ford Dealer with the vehicle identification number to find out if your client's vehicle was included in the recall. Also, a list of consumer complaints, investigations, service bulletins, and/or detailed information of investigations and safety recalls concerning vehicle safety problems can be obtained from NHTSA Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems> or requesting the information from NHTSA's Technical Information Services (TIS). Please contact:



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

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Technical Information Services NPO-405
400 Seventh Street, SW - Room 2336
Washington, DC 20590
FAX: (202) 493-2833
E-MAIL: tis@nhtsa.dot.gov <<mailto:tis@nhtsa.dot.gov>>

You will need to specify the make, model, model year, and type of problem for which you are requesting information. There may be a nominal charge for providing the listings and detailed information; therefore, you may consider contacting TIS for price information before ordering.

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.

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, 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 me, at (202) 366-5211.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure