



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

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

February 9, 2007




NVS-216 mw  
Ref. #10181631

Dear 

Thank you for your correspondence requesting information concerning the seat belts in your Model Year (MY) 2004 Ford Explorer. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation on January 30, 2007. We regret any inconvenience or delay in responding may have caused you.

We appreciate the report you provided, and we are glad that your son escaped the accident without serious injury. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or safety defect recall is warranted. A review of our database relative to problems associated with the seat belts or a seat belt recall for MY 2004 Ford Explorer vehicles, revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation at this time. The information you provided will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

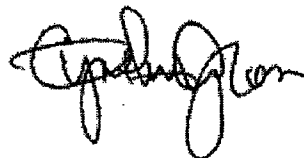
 each manufacturer designs its vehicles so the air bag will deploy if the severity of the crash exceeds a certain threshold. A number of factors, other than crash severity, can also affect whether an air bag will deploy during a crash; e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the other vehicle, and the amount of force absorbed by the other vehicle or object that is impacted. Only an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash.



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

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 you can contact our toll-free NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Glass', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Glass, Acting Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement