



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 12, 2011

[REDACTED]  
Columbia, SC [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nam  
Ref. No. 10355847

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning model year (MY) 1995 Ford Econoline E250 vehicles. Your letter was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation.

On behalf of NHTSA, please accept our sincere condolences for the tragic death of your son involved in a fatal crash. We certainly understand and commend your efforts to ensure that a similar crash does not occur. Our primary mission at NHTSA is to help reduce the frequency and severity of such crashes through developing and enforcing Federal vehicle safety standards, ensuring the recall of vehicles and vehicle equipment containing safety related defects, and promoting educational efforts on highway safety.

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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain 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 for motorists are a very important source of information for us. In your correspondence you inquire as to why the MY 1995 Ford Econoline E250 sustained so much front end damage from a single vehicle crash into a guardrail. In addition, you would like to know the condition of the crash dummies that were used in crash testing this vehicle.

[REDACTED]

A review of our database did not identify whether the front of MY 1995 Ford Econoline E250 vans have a structural integrity problem. A number of factors can affect the severity of a crash; e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the vehicle, and the amount of force absorbed by the object that is impacted. Only an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to how a particular vehicle's safety features performed in a specific crash.

The MY 1995 Ford Econoline E250 achieved a 4-Star Rating for the driver and a 3-Star Rating for the front passenger in the Federal 5-Star Safety Rating for vehicles produced from 1990 to 2010. Starting with 2011 models, NHTSA has introduced tougher testing and more stringent safety requirements have been instituted for Federal 5-Star Safety Ratings. The Federal 5-Star Safety Ratings can be found on [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq) or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems).

Sincerely,



Randy Reid, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

Enclosure