



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
10 Franklin Road SE, Suite 540  
Roanoke, VA 24011

NEF-109 rrr  
Ref. No. 11075888

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], concerning his model year (MY) 2007 Ford Mustang vehicle. Your correspondence was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's public roads. We monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns and can order manufacturers to recall and repair motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance.

[REDACTED] correspondence to your office indicates he is still awaiting a replacement air bag for his vehicle, which is affected by NHTSA Safety Recall No. 16V-384. That recall addresses a problem with frontal passenger-side Takata air bag inflators in MY 2007 Ford Mustangs, among other Ford vehicles. In the event of a crash where the front passenger-side air bag deploys, the inflator can explode.

The Takata air bag inflator recalls are the largest and most complex recalls in U.S. automotive history. These recalls include 19 vehicle manufacturers and currently include approximately 50 million inflators in an estimated 37 million vehicles in the United States alone. One of the challenges presented by these unprecedented recalls is the availability of remedy parts, which is affected by several factors including redesigning repair parts using alternative inflator suppliers, testing to ensure the redesigned repair parts are safe, manufacturing and capacity constraints given the enormous global demand, and logistics in getting the parts out to the distribution networks and into the dealer's hands. In the case of certain Ford vehicles, such as [REDACTED] 2007 Ford Mustang, the redesign of an alternative inflator as a safe remedy part took longer than Ford initially expected.

Recognizing the many unique challenges in the Takata recalls, NHTSA instituted a Coordinated Remedy to prioritize vehicles for repair based on the risk to vehicle occupants so that the highest risk vehicles would have repair parts available first. Under NHTSA's Coordinated Remedy Order, issued in December 2016, Ford was ordered to have repair parts

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available for MY 2007 Ford Mustang owners in Virginia<sup>1</sup> by March 31, 2017. However, due to delays in Ford's remedy part redesign and development, Ford requested, and was granted, an extension to December 31, 2017,<sup>2</sup> to have parts available for these vehicles. Ford later submitted an additional extension request to NHTSA,<sup>3</sup> but has indicated that the design issues have been resolved, and at this point parts should be available for [REDACTED] vehicle.

When [REDACTED] receives notification from Ford that parts are available, he should contact a local Ford dealer to schedule a **free** repair immediately. In the event the dealership tells [REDACTED] that parts are not available after he is notified by Ford that parts are available, or after April 2018 given the pending extension request, NHTSA requests that [REDACTED] report that information to us, including the name of the dealership, names of employees with whom he spoke, the date and time of the contact with the dealership, and any other information he believes may be useful. He can report this information by calling NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236, or by filling out an online report following the Takata Recalls instructions at <https://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/VehicleComplaint/>.

For the most up-to-date information on the Takata recalls, we encourage [REDACTED] to visit our website at [www.nhtsa.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags](http://www.nhtsa.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags). Further, we suggest that [REDACTED] check NHTSA's website at least twice per year for new safety recalls, where he can search using his Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in the VIN Look-Up Tool.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Jeffrey M. Giuseppe, Associate Administrator for Enforcement at 202-493-2631.

Sincerely,



Brian Barnard  
Director, Governmental Affairs,  
Policy and Strategic Planning

cc: Washington Office

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<sup>1</sup> For reference, based on the Make, Model, Model Year, and assumed location in Virginia, [REDACTED] 2007 Ford Mustang is in Priority Group 4 in NHTSA's Coordinated Remedy Program.

<sup>2</sup> The extension was granted in the Fifth Amendment to the Coordinated Remedy Order, which is available on NHTSA's website at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/document/fifth-amendment-coordinated-remedy-order-extensions>.

<sup>3</sup> Ford's extension request is currently pending with the Agency and is available on NHTSA's website at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/document/ford-motor-company-extension-request-pg-4-8-supplement-nov-30-2017-and-appendices>.