



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



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July 18, 2022

[REDACTED]  
Greenville, IL [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NEF-109 tgd  
Ref. No. 11470374

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2018 Ford Escape vehicle. I am pleased to respond.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's roadways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects, such as in their design, construction, or performance. Among other activities, we also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We understand your dissatisfaction with the failure of the 1.5L EcoBoost engine in your MY 2018 Ford Escape. You would like to know why the problem is not related to the engine problems in MY 2020 through MY 2022 Escape vehicles, which have been recalled.

A safety defect present in one vehicle model may appear to be similar to a problem in a different model. However, recalls are very specific with regard to vehicle build dates, affected vehicle identification numbers (VIN), vehicle models and model years, assembly plants, remedy procedures, defective components, etc. As such, there are three separate recalls affecting multiple engine types in MY 2020 through MY 2022 Ford Escapes. Our research did not indicate that the 1.5L EcoBoost engine was associated with any of these recalls. Also, our decision not to open an investigation or initiate a recall is based on a review of field data, a review of previous investigation and recall activity for similar problems, and our understanding of what happens when the vehicle experiences a failure. We reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with 1.5L EcoBoost engines in MY 2018 Ford Escape vehicles. At this time, NHTSA has not identified sufficient evidence to open a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall.

Please note that the issuance of Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) by a manufacturer does not necessarily mean that a vehicle contains a safety-related defect in accordance with our statute, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Manufacturers may issue these types of actions at their discretion to address a known problem unrelated to motor vehicle safety and to restore customer satisfaction. While NHTSA continuously monitors manufacturer TSB's to identify potential vehicle safety issues for which a recall is necessary, the agency does not

otherwise regulate TSB's. Thus, the manufacturer remains responsible for all aspects of TSB's including the nature and scope of the repair and the vehicle make, model and years at issue. Also, NHTSA does not participate in private tort litigation, nor do we have any authority to enforce the terms of settlements from lawsuits.

While we were researching your problem, we entered your VIN into our VIN Look Up Tool and found an open recall on your vehicle. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 22V-413 addresses a problem with the bushing that attaches the shifter cable to the transmission, that may degrade or detach in certain MY 2013 through MY 2019 Ford Escape vehicles. Remedy parts are expected to be available in the 4th Quarter of 2022. We recommend that you to schedule an appointment with Ford and your local dealer when you receive the final notice indicating that the parts are available.

We encourage you to continue to work with Ford and your dealer if you require further assistance with your vehicle. We entered your information into NHTSA's database, where it will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at [https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls\\_808795.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf).

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, you may review owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. on our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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