

From: feedback@cartalk.com
To: Alberto <NHTSA> Jimenez
Date: 8/29/01 3:18PM
Subject: Car Talk VOQ submission

785500

* This data was submitted via a fill-in form at the Cartalk web site
* (<http://www.cartalk.cars.com/Tools/nhtsa.pl>) if you have any problems
* or suggestions regarding the format of this submission, send email
* to webmaster@cartalk.com

SUBMISSION DATE: Wednesday, August 29th 2001 at 3:17:50 PM

VEHICLE OWNER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

OWNER INFORMATION

NAME: [REDACTED]
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]

NHTSA authorized to send a copy of this report to the manufacturer: No

VEHICLE INFORMATION

VIN: 1FTEF26H0MLA56327
MAKE: Ford
MODEL: F-250
YEAR: 1991

ODOMETER: 90000
PURCHASE DATE: 02/dd/92
NEW OR USED:

DEALER NAME: Budget Rent-a-Car
ADDRESS: Seattle, WA

ENGINE SIZE: 351
CYLINDERS: 8

FUEL INJECTION: Yes
TURBO: No
FUEL TYPE: Gas
ANTILOCK BRAKES: Yes
CRUISE CONTROL: Yes

DRIVETRAIN: 4 Wheel
DRIVER AIRBAG: No
PASSENGER AIRBAG: No
3-POINT BELT: Yes
MOTOR BELT: No
2-POINT BELT: No
BODY STYLE: Pickup Truck

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

COMPONENT: Headlight Switch

PART NAME(S): unknown

LOCATION:

NUMBER OF FAILURES: several over a period of several years

DATE(S) OF FAILURES: Most recent - May of 2001

MILEAGE AT FAILURE(S): about 89,000

SPEED AT FAILURE(S): not applicable

MANUFACTURER CONTACTED:

NHTSA CONTACTED:

APPLICABLE ACCIDENT INFORMATION

ACCIDENT: No
FIRE: No

NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED: na
NUMBER OF FATALITIES: na
ESTIMATED PROPERTY DAMAGE: \$0

DRIVER AIRBAG DEPLOYED: N/A
PASSENGER AIRBAG DEPLOYED: N/A

REPORTED TO POLICE: No

INFORMATION ON TIRE FAILURE(S) (IF APPLICABLE)

DOT NUMBER: DOTna
TIRE MANUFACTURER:
TIRE NAME:
TIRE SIZE:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I'm submitting this information only because I understand that Ford is aware of this problem. I have been told that there is a voluntary recall (not mandated) to replace this item and repair any damage. I also understand that this problem has plagued a number of Ford models over a period of years. The problem is that the switch is apparently not heavy duty enough and will overheat causing, in some cases, fires that literally have burned the vehicles to the ground. Our failure(s) have not been nearly this dramatic, but have included lighting system failures on remote roads in the middle of the night and could have led to accidents had we not been in a position to address the issue immediately. The failures started first with the headlamps going out and worsening until all lights failed. I have removed the assembly and cleaned the contacts of both the switch and the connector on the wiring harness. The last failure in May required replacing the switch with a new non-OEM brand that seems to be performing OK. The main problem is that the wiring harness connector is in poor condition due to its exposure to the heat generated by the old switch assembly.

A call to Ford customer service (800-392-3673) provided no information concerning this switch/wiring problem (as did a web search). Perhaps you can provide more info and/or get Ford to come through on what would be a relatively simple repair.

Best Regards,



END OF FORM



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

Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

**NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>**

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 1058

Date Received

29-AUG-2001

Od_or _____
rt_dt _____
pd_rt _____
rp_lr _____

Reference No.

785500

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date ____/____/____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) <small>(Locate at bottom of windshield or driver's side)</small>	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Year	Current Odometer Reading		
1FTEF26H0MLA56327	FORD TRUCK	F250	1991			
Purchase Date 01-FEB-1992	Dealer's Name _____	Engine Size (CID/CC/L 8 CYL	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injectio			
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	No Cylinders _____				
Transmission Type <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic	Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Restraint System <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt <input type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Bel <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag	Cruise Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Drive Train <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Util <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Body Style <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 09102000	Part Name(s) LIGHTING:SWITCH:BUTTON:RING:HEAD LIGHTS	Location <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear	Failed Part's <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
No of Failure 1	Date(s) of Failure(s) 01-MAY-2001 89000	Failed Part(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NHTSA Previously <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Mileage at Failure(s) _____			

APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury(ies) on the back of this form)

Crash <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured	Number of Fatalities	Estimated Property Damag	Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
---	---	---------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	---

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

HEADLIGHT SWITCH IS FAULTY CAUSING THE LIGHTS TO FAIL WHILE DRIVING. NLM

COPIES OF THIS FORM ARE:

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.