



ODI RESUME

Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

INVESTIGATION: SQ99-001
SUBJECT: Overhead Console Loose
PROMPTED BY: TSB #98-23-5
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Sonny Murianka

DATE OPENED: 1-12-99

DATE CLOSED:

MANUFACTURER: Ford Motor Company

MODEL(S): Windstar

MODEL YEAR(S): Certain 1998 and 1999

VEHICLE POPULATION: 15,491 Vehicles built between 5/28/98 and 7/3/98

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Ford issued a service bulletin to address "overhead console loose or hanging down."

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	1	*2,146	*2,146
CRASHES:	0	0	0
INJ CRASHES:	0	0	0
# INJURIES:	0	0	0
FAT CRASHES:	0	0	0
# FATALS:	0	0	0
OTHER:	0	0	0

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER: * Warranty claims

ACTION: This SQ is closed. Ford will conduct a Product Improvement Campaign, 99I-001.

ENGINEER: _____ DIV CHF: _____ OFC DIR: _____
DATE DATE DATE

Summary: This investigation was opened to evaluate the safety consequences of a detached overhead console. In January of 1999, Ford issued a service bulletin concerning loose overhead consoles. The console's load-bearing bracket could fracture and allow the console to fall. The stamping oil used on the headliner bracket was identified as the external contamination that led to the degradation of the mounting bracket. Ford maintains that the console is positioned between the driver and the passenger in such a way that when it falls it will fall in between them. ODI's complaint alleges that while driving,

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the overhead console detached from the ceiling attachment points.

While there are no reported crashes or injuries as the result of a reported detachment, Ford has decided to conduct an owner notification program to notify owners of the problem and provide revised retaining brackets without charge until April 30, 2003.

A safety trend has not been identified and this investigation is closed. Further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that no safety defect exists. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.