



ODI RESUME

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

INVESTIGATION: RQ99-016
SUBJECT: Liftgate Support bracket Failure
PROMPTED BY: IE99-051
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Nha Nguyen

DATE OPENED:

MANUFACTURER: Ford Motor Company
MODEL(S): Explorer
MODEL YEAR(S): 1991-1995
VEHICLE POPULATION: Unknown

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: The rear liftgate support brackets can separate resulting in a sudden collapse of the rear hatch door.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | MANUFACTURER | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| COMPLAINTS: | 51 | Unknown | 51 |
| CRASHES: | 0 | " | 0 |
| INJ CRASHES: | 0 | " | 0 |
| # INJURIES: | 12 | " | 12 |
| FAT CRASHES: | 0 | " | 0 |
| # FATALS: | 0 | " | 0 |
| OTHER: | 19 | " | 19 |

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER: Numbers of struck occupant resulting 11 injuries.

ACTION: Open an RQ.

ENGINEER: _____ DIV CHF: _____ OFC DIR: _____

DATE

DATE

DATE

SUMMARY: On August 22, 1995, Ford conducted safety recall, 95V-164, on 1992 and 1993 model year Explorer due to liftgate failures. The rear liftgate hydraulic cylinder bracket can become unattached allowing the liftgate to suddenly drop. The recall remedy was to install reinforcements on the brackets. Ford also initiated a safety improvement campaign in October 1995, for 1991-1995 model year Explorer vehicles which were not included in the recall, to install reinforcements on those bracket that were found to be loose or detached. This campaign ended in October 1996.

Since November 1996, ODI has received 51 consumer complaints alleging liftgate failures caused by the bracket separation, of which 19 reported the liftgate struck the occupant causing 12 injuries. One complaint was on 1992 model year vehicle, three complaints were on 1993 model year vehicles, and 47 complaints were on 1994 model year vehicles.

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This RQ is to determine the extent of the problem experience and the scope of safety recall 95V-164.