

~~RP03-001~~ RP03-001

NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip



Petition

Printed: 10/22/2003

NHTSA #: E903-007548
XREF #:
Delivery: HND

Rec'd Date: 10/21/2003
Doc Type: PET
Address To: NVS200

Referred By: NEC-110
Doc Date: 8/5/2003
Due Date: 2/23/2004

S10 #:
Subject: PETITION TO OPEN AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO WHY THE MERCURY SABLE HAS EXCESSIVE MOVEMENT OF THE BRAKE PEDAL, SHE OWNS A 2000 MERCURY SABLE WITH A DEFECTIVE BRAKE PEDAL & AIRBAGS

Ack Date:
Sign Office: SENIOR AA
VEHICLE SAFETY

Ack By:
Signature: RONALD MEDFORD

Signed For:

Cleared Date:
File Loc:
Added By: SHARRIS x62534

Cleared By:
XREF File:
Modified By: SHARRIS

Cleared For:
Closed Date:

Most Recent Comment: 10/22/03 1:45PM PER 10/21 NOTE FM A.LEE H/C INTO EXEC SEC BY MARIA CRUZ/ODI

Author:



NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA
Fax: E-mail:

*ODI Ref. No.
10044588*

Assigned To	Task	Assign Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	10/22/2003	2/23/2004	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	10/22/2003		10/22/2003

RECEIVED
OCT 22 2 45 PM '03
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

SDH

10030965

RECEIVED
NVS-215

September 5, 2003

2003 OCT -1 AM 2:00 OCT 21 A 10:50

2003 SEP 17 P 3:20

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Defects and Investigations
Attention: Mr. John White
400 7th St., S.W., Room 5319
Washington, D.C. 20590

NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COUNCIL
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. White:

My mother and I own a 2000 Mercury Sable (please see attached complaint for all vehicle information). This Sable has the adjustable brake and gas pedal system which was recalled for the spacing problem between pedals. Our dealership (Galpin Lincoln Mercury, Van Nuys, CA) said our vehicle needed no adjustment.

On June 21, 2003, my mother was turning into a parking space (0-5 mph) and I was on the passenger side, when the car suddenly accelerated up on to a grassy median, hit a light pole head on (on the drivers side), and then came to rest after hitting a parked car head on (on the passenger side). The airbags did not deploy and both of us were injured. On inspection of the car, it was noted that the brake pedal had excessive side-to-side movement. A brake pedal should not move like this; it should be solid and stable. This one is not!

An inspector at the body shop told us the brake was not normal. Two independent brake specialists have told us that this is a very dangerous brake pedal. One drove the car and the pedal kept moving so that his foot was right at the gas pedal. The other said even the gas pedal also had too much movement. The assistant service manager at the dealership said Ford put on a sloppy brake pedal, so drive very, very careful.

I already contacted Ford Customer Relations regarding this problem. They refuse to do anything because the dealership told Ford they have two other vehicles where the brakes move the same way and feel this is normal to the vehicle. Ford also discounts the opinions of outside experts; apparently, only their opinion counts! It is unjustified to make this kind of statement when you have looked at only two other vehicles out of several hundreds of thousands of Sables (and the Taurus) that have the adjustable brake and gas pedal system and were recently recalled.

This vehicle is very, very dangerous and, unfortunately, we have no other vehicle to drive. In fact, within the last week I almost had a second accident. Therefore, I petition the Agency to open an immediate investigation to find out why the Sable has excessive movement of the brake pedal. I also petition the Agency to once again look into the non-deployment of airbags on this vehicle. Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,



MW
10/3/03

ES03-007546



Office of Defects Investigation

VOQ Confirmation

Your Complaint information is successfully submitted.

Your Confirmation number (ODI Number) is: 10030965

Your Complaint Information

Consumer Information

Name

Org. Name

Address

City, State, Zip North Hollywood, CA
USA

Daytime Phone Ext

Evening Phone Fax

Email

top

Complaint Information

Description While parking my vehicle I stepped on the brake and the car took off like it was powered. It went up onto a grassy median ran head on into and over a light pole and came to rest after hitting a parked car head on. The brakes did not stop the car and THE AIR BAGS DID NOT DEPLOY!! The car had been taken in for a recall on the adjustable brake and gas pedal earlier in the year and I was told no adjustment was necessary. So far it has been found that our brake pedal has too much play on it (in other words it moves side to side to much—is loose?) The adjustable brake and gas pedal and the air bags not deploying are issues that must be addressed by Ford on this vehicle.

Incident Date 6/21/2003 File No

Num. Fatalities 0 Crash Yes

Num. Followed 0 Property Damage Yes

Num. Injured 2 Police Report Yes

Referral Source INTERNET

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Vehicle Information

VIN 1MEFW888Y6524354 Purchase Date 5/31/2000

Year, Make, and Model 2000/MERCURY/SABLE Original Owner Yes

of Cylinders 6
 Engine Size 3.0L V6 240HC
 Cruise Control Yes
 Current Mileage 11,228
 Failure Mileage 10,000 +
 Body Style 4-DOOR
 Fuel Type GAS
 Trans. Type AUTOMATIC
 Vehicle/Trailer Usage
 AntiLock Brakes -Yes **NO**
 Speed
 Powertrain FRONT WHEEL DRIVE
 Fuel System

Vehicle Component Information

Component ID:	OTHER	Other	Yes
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Vehicle Dealer Information

Dealer: 1
 Name: Dealer Type: SALES DEALER
 Address:

Dealer Phone: Dealer Fax:
 Email:

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