



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-023
 Prompted By: PE04-033
 Date Opened: 08/18/2004 Date Closed: 02/04/2005
 Principal Investigator: John Abbott
 Subject: Rear Door Latch Failure

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
 Products: 2000 Ford Focus (4-Door Sedan/Wagon)
 Population: 261,000

Problem Description: Complainants allege that one or both rear door latches do not latch, resulting in the rear door(s) opening while the vehicle is in motion.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	29	22	51
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	1	1
# Injuries:	0	1	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	31	31

*Description of Other: Warranty

Action: Close investigation (see safety recall 05V030).

Engineer: John Abbott
 Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
 Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/04/2005
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Summary: This investigation was opened on April 8, 2004 as PE04-033 and upgraded on August 18, 2004 to EA04-023. The complainants alleged that the rear door latches failed to keep the doors in a closed position, resulting in rear doors coming open while the vehicles were being driven. Some complainants reported that at times a rear door, or doors, could be difficult to close. Others reported that corrosion of the door latch mechanism caused binding of the latch.

Ford has identified a condition of corrosion in the "pawl pivot" area of the door latch assembly that prevents proper engagement of the door latch "catch" to the latch striker on the vehicle body.

By letter of February 1, 2005, Ford Motor Company notified the agency that it will conduct a safety recall on model year 2000 through 2002 four and five-door Focus vehicles registered in, or originally sold in, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Dealers will inspect rear door latches and replace "binding" latches as required. Dealers will also lubricate all rear door latches to prevent future corrosion and binding. A lower rocker seal will also be added to the rear doors.

See safety recall 05V030 for details.

2/4/05
JJA