



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
Principal Investigator: John Abbott
Subject: Rear Door Latch Failure

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 2000 Ford Focus (4 Door Sedan/Wagon)
Population: 261000 (ESTIMATED)

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:	14	19	33
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	28	28

*Description Of Other: Warranty Reports

Action: OPEN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

Engineer: John Abbott

Date: 08/18/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 08/18/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/18/2004

Summary: This investigation was opened on April 8, 2004 based on 17 reports that one or both rear door latches did not function properly. The complainants alleged that the doors were difficult to close and that the door latches would not remain latched while the vehicles were being driven, resulting in a door coming open. Several of the complainants reported that corrosion of the door latch mechanism caused binding of the latch.

Ford's response to the preliminary evaluation information request provided 19 consumer reports and 28 warranty claims attributed to the door latch where the doors came open while the vehicles were being driven. Three (3) of the 17 opening ODI reports were duplicated in Ford's response.

An engineering analysis has been opened for further study.

JFA
8/20