



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-033
Prompted By: IE04-021
Date Opened: 04/08/2004
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Subject: Rear Door Latch Failure

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 2000 Ford Focus (4 door sedan/wagon)
Population: 260,000 (estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	17	0	17
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

***Description Of Other:**

Action: This preliminary evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Cynthia Glass
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/08/2004
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Summary: Complainants allege that one or both rear door latches do not function properly. They allege that the doors do not close all the way, and the latches do not hold the locked setting. While driving, and especially when turning a corner, a rear door latch may disengage and the door may open, even when the door is "locked." Several reports state that the dealership analysis found that corrosion in the latch mechanism may be contributing to the problem.

4/9/04
TSC