

Ford Motor Company

*Neil
7/26/05*

2005 JUL 21 11:18 AM

James P. Vondra, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental & Safety Engineering

July 18, 2005

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

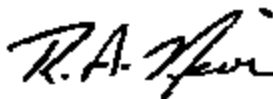
Subject: EA04-034:NVS-213dsy

Two copies of documents for which Ford Motor Company (Ford) is withdrawing its June 2, 2005 request for confidential treatment are attached.

As you know, following discussions with agency personnel concerning confidentiality request processes, Ford has revised its document review and submission processes to facilitate the agency's review. Therefore, Ford decided to re-examine and categorize in accordance with the revised processes the documents submitted in response to EA04-034 in its June 2, 2005 request for confidentiality. On July 18, 2005, Ford submitted an amended request for confidential treatment covering a subset of those documents for which it originally requested confidentiality. Two copies of the documents for which Ford is now not requesting confidential treatment are resubmitted, with this letter, as a supplement to Appendices K1 and K2 of its June 1, 2005 response. These documents are being resubmitted in response to Request 12.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



R. A. Nevi
Assistant Director
Global Automotive Safety Compliance

Attachment



EA04-034
FORD
7/18/2005
APPENDIX
K1

From: Curt, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2004 12:36 PM
To: Christensen, Kris (K.S.)
Cc: Shepherd, Scott (S.A.); Rohweder, David (D.S.); Patel, Mona (M.S.); Coscarelli, Craig (C.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Abyad, Abdulrah (A.Y.); Hawkins, Fred (F.W.)
Subject: RE: EN Steel Wheel Update
Sensitivity: Private

Kris,

Good afternoon. Per the note below, can you advise on the status of the current EN steel wheel? I'd like to schedule a meeting to discuss if you have anything to share...

Thanks,

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Hawkins, Fred (F.W.)
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2004 5:10 PM
To: Curt, Al (C.A.)
Cc: Shepherd, Scott (S.A.); Rohweder, David (D.S.); Patel, Mona (M.S.); Coscarelli, Craig (C.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Abyad, Abdulrah (A.Y.); Hawkins, Fred (F.W.)
Subject: RE: EN Steel Wheel Update
Sensitivity: Private

Al,

CCRG has received a recall query resume from NHTSA indicating they will be opening an investigation on 2003 Police & Taxi Crown Vic. This is in response to reports they received on weld cracks on later level (CF) wheels used as replacement wheels for the previous Field Action.

Regards,

Fred Hawkins

Chassis Site Manager

Supplier Technical Assistance

Phone: 313-39-05740; fhawkin2@ford.com

Text Page: 313-798-1437; Fax: 313-390-0793; VPO 1E401

"The information contained herein is FORD PROPRIETARY information and may include FORD CONFIDENTIAL information as defined in Ford's Global Information Standard II. Reproduction of this document, disclosure of the information, and use for any purpose other than the conduct of business with Ford is expressly prohibited."

-----Original Message-----

From: Curt, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2004 10:39 AM
To: Hawkins, Fred (F.W.); Abyad, Abdulrah (A.Y.)
Cc: Shepherd, Scott (S.A.); Rohweder, David (D.S.); Patel, Mona (M.S.); Coscarelli, Craig (C.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.)
Subject: RE: EN Steel Wheel Update
Sensitivity: Private

Fred/Mike, any contact with CCRG (Kris Christensen) about the "CF" wheel status?

Thanks,

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2004 12:20 PM
To: Cocarelli, Craig (C.); Mahone, Rita (R.A.); Alyad, Abdullah (A.Y.); Hawkins, Fred (F.W.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Gilman, Paul (P.D.)
Cc: Shepherd, Scott (S.A.); Rohweder, David (D.S.); Patel, Mona (M.S.)
Subject: RE: EN Steel Wheel Update
Sensitivity: Private

Folks, open issues (and champion) from today's meeting are as follows:

- Obtain PD concurrence on the peening approach as a solution to extend fatigue life (Campbell/Gilman).
- Gather implementation cost/trim on the peening approach from Hayes (Curti).
- Discuss CCRG's position on the "CF" level wheel regarding possible future Field Action status (Alyad/Hawkins).

Advise once you have any information to share w/regard to the items above so we can keep the process moving...

Thanks,

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2004 1:40 PM
To: Curti, Al (C.A.); Cocarelli, Craig (C.); Mahone, Rita (R.A.); Shepherd, Scott (S.A.); Alyad, Abdullah (A.Y.); Hawkins, Fred (F.W.); Patel, Mona (M.S.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Rohweder, David (D.S.)
Subject: EN Steel Wheel Update
When: Wednesday, July 21, 2004 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: VPO Conf Room 300A (12)
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Private

Dial in information for those that cannot attend in person:

Meeting postponed due to D. Rohweder's schedule and additional test results that are forthcoming...

Follow up meeting to discuss the following items relating to Hayes steel wheels:

- Central Labs testing results on the 3W73-1007-CF wheels.
- Field returns on the 4W73-1007-AA.
- Sedalia Q1 status.

From: Clark, Scott (S.R.)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2005 10:15 AM
To: Jones, Vincent (V.B.)
Subject: FW: Steel Wheel - S&C Ford

Vinca, FYI...

Scott R. Clark

Modified Vehicle Specialist
Police-Limo-Taxi-Livery
Commercial Vehicle Operations
Ford Customer Service Division
Phone: 313-990-1490
Fax: 313-248-6580
scark10@ford.com <scark10@ford.com>

—Original Message—

From: Kopelka, Charles (C.R.)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2005 10:08 AM
To: Saul, Russell (R.J.)
Cc: Blair, Gary (G.S.); Eldridge, Scott (S.A.); Clark, Scott (S.R.); Hirtzel, Rich (R.J.)
Subject: Steel Wheel - S&C Ford

Russ, my team reviewed the background yesterday on the WPAC data where S&C Ford had returned approx 100 steel wheels (mainly from a taxi cab fleet in San Francisco CA) with the date codes ground off. After considering the dealer input on the date code issue and a further review of the wheels returned, you can advise S&C that we will accept the initial return of these wheels, less a small chargeback for returned wheels that have obvious damage to the rim from potholes, curb rash, etc.....

We also sent a sample of the wheels that were returned to the wheel supplier, who will repair the disabled area of the wheel and mount a tire to test for air leakage - I am not sure when we will get these results back, but since the supplier is participating in the cost of this recall, I would believe they will act quickly to determine fault.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to advise S&C to be more prudent in their handling of this fleet and the replacement of these steel wheels

Thanks,

Charles Kopelka
Manager, Recall & Service Programs
(313) 337-2487

Finance Specialist - Supplier Technical Assistance
Purchasing Controllers' Office
Ford Motor Company
Phone/Fax: (313) 32-31783

—Original Message—

From: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2004 9:16 AM
To: Price, Stewart
Cc: Drever, Donald (D.C.)
Subject: EN Field Action -- Next Debit...
Importance: High

Stew,

As a follow up to our discussion, my understanding on the next debit is that Don Drever is gathering the latest actual cost information and will have a tally by early next week. I understand that the end of October is the end of your fiscal year; I've copied Don so he is aware as well in order to get the debit processed as soon as possible...

Thanks,

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

ER04-034 000005

5/10/2005

From: Pavlik, Linda [lpavlik@hayes-lemmerz.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 4:42 PM
To: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Cc: Grenier, Lou
Subject: FW: Shot Peen RFQ

-----Original Message-----

From: Grenier, Lou
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 4:41 PM
To: Pavlik, Linda
Cc: 'Curti, Al (C.A.)'
Subject: Shot Peen RFQ

Linda,

Please forward Shot peen RFQ to Al Curti, as my computer is currently having attachment issues.

Best Regards,

Lou Grenier

Hayes Lemmerz/Curti, Al (C.A.)

Account Manager to Ford

734 757 8380 Office

734 386 7743 Cell

734 757 2102 Fax

ERN4-834 888825

5/10/2005

From: Grenier, Lou [lgrenier@hayes-lemmerz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2005 12:21 PM
To: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: STAP returned 4W73 steel wheels to Sedalia

Al,

As I understand, these were production ready wheels that St Thomas decided to put aside when the shot peen wheels began to arrive.

As I also understand, this was supposed to be an exhaust change, and they were to be used up....
Status?

Lou

-----Original Message-----

From: Curti, Al (C.A.) [mailto:acurti@ford.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2005 8:53 AM
To: Prince, Stewart; Setzer, Roger; O'Neill, Mitch
Cc: Putz, Chris; Campbell, Keith (K.A.)
Subject: RE: STAP returned 4W73 steel wheels to Sedalia

Gentlemen, I guess I'm confused as to what the issue is? We are referring to non-peened wheels, correct? I've copied Keith Campbell on this note as an FYI...

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Prince, Stewart [mailto:sprince@hayes-lemmerz.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 12:43 PM
To: Setzer, Roger; O'Neill, Mitch; Curti, Al (C.A.)
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned 4W73 steel wheels to Sedalia

Al,

further to our discussion on this issue ...

we thought we had an agreement with STAP for them to use these wheels ('exhaust') ... and not ship back without authority.

Receiving them and scrapping is no problem as long as they don't debit us for cost.

Please let us know what Purchasings' position is.

We are asking for your support in challenging STAP's actions.

Thanks Al
Stewart

-----Original Message-----
From: Setzer, Roger

ERM-634 000045

5/10/2005

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 6:49 AM
To: O'Neil, Mitch; Prince, Stewart
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalia

Stewart, heard anymore about these returned wheels?

Roger..

-----Original Message-----
From: Setzer, Roger
Sent: Saturday, January 08, 2005 9:43 AM
To: O'Neil, Mitch; Prince, Stewart
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalia

What is the answer to this? I'm getting pressure from the carrier and Penske Logistics, wanting their trailers emptied.
I need a answer like now.

Let me know.

Roger...

-----Original Message-----
From: O'Neil, Mitch
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2005 10:53 AM
To: Prince, Stewart; Setzer, Roger
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalia

Stewart,

My only concern is that St. Thomas will debit us for all these returned wheels, and then we will be absorbing all that scrap. If we are ensured that St. Thomas is taking the responsibility for us scrapping these wheels, I have no issue scrapping them; otherwise, I don't want them back.

Thanks, Mitch

-----Original Message-----
From: Prince, Stewart
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2005 10:35 AM
To: Setzer, Roger
Cc: O'Neil, Mitch; Putz, Chris; 'acurti@ford.com'
Subject: STAP returned wheels to Sedalia

Roger,

further to our discussion , please advise how many EN steel wheels, what engineering level (part#) ...and the contact person at STAP who initiated this return.

These wheels should not have been returned. They will not be re-worked. They should be scrapped.

I also need to know what costs are incurred with this action.

Thanks Rog
S

ER64-834 88848

5/10/2005

Stewart Prince
Director of Sales - Ford Account
Hayes Lemmerz International
734-737-5250

ERR4-034 000047

5/10/2005

From: Prince, Stewart [sprince@hayes-lemmerz.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 12:43 PM
To: Setzer, Roger; O'Neil, Mitch; Curti, Al (C.A.)
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned 4W73 steel wheels to Sedalla

Al,

further to our discussion on this issue ...

we thought we had an agreement with STAP for them to use these wheels ('exhaust') ... and not ship back without authority.

Receiving them and scrapping is no problem as long as they don't debit us for cost.

Please let us know what Purchasings' position is.

We are asking for your support in challenging STAP's actions.

Thanks Al
Stewart

-----Original Message-----

From: Setzer, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 6:49 AM
To: O'Neil, Mitch; Prince, Stewart
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalla

Stewart, heard anymore about these returned wheels?

Roger..

-----Original Message-----

From: Setzer, Roger
Sent: Saturday, January 08, 2005 9:43 AM
To: O'Neil, Mitch; Prince, Stewart
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalla

What is the answer to this? I'm getting pressure from the carrier and Penske Logistics, wanting their trailers emptied.

I need an answer like now.

Let me know.

Roger...

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Neil, Mitch
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2005 10:53 AM
To: Prince, Stewart; Setzer, Roger
Cc: Putz, Chris
Subject: RE: STAP returned wheels to Sedalla

ERR-634 00048

5/10/2005

Stewart,

My only concern is that St. Thomas will debit us for all these returned wheels, and then we will be absorbing all that scrap. If we are ensured that St. Thomas is taking the responsibility for us scrapping these wheels, I have no issue scrapping them; otherwise, I don't want them back.

Thanks, Mitch

-----Original Message-----

From: Prince, Stewart

Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2005 10:35 AM

To: Setzer, Roger

Cc: O'Neil, Mitch; Putz, Chris; 'acurtis@ford.com'

Subject: STAP returned wheels to Socialia

Roger,

further to our discussion, please advise how many EN steel wheels, what engineering level (part#) ...and the contact person at STAP who initiated this return.

These wheels should not have been returned. They will not be re-worked. They should be scrapped.

I also need to know what costs are incurred with this action.

Thanks Rog
S

Stewart Prince
Director of Sales - Ford Account
Hayes Lemmerz International
734-737-6260

EA04-024 000049

5/10/2005

From: Prince, Stewart [sprince@hayes-lemmerz.com]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 8:54 AM
To: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Subject: FW: EN Steel Wheel Field Action
Importance: High

Hi Al

first of all the important stuff ... Master's ... how bout that Billy Casper ... a 14 on 16 ! That would be tough to do
it's still anybody's game. DiMarco will probably hang in there to contend on Sun
re this EN subject ... give me a call at your convenience.

\$

W. Stewart Prince
Director of Sales & Marketing - N.A. Aftermarket
Hayes Lemmerz International
Northville, Michigan
Office: 734-737-6260
Mobile: 734-365-7732

-----Original Message-----
From: Hart, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2005 3:12 PM
To: Prince, Stewart
Subject: FW: EN Steel Wheel Field Action
Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----
From: Curti, Al (C.A.) [mailto:acurti@ford.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2005 4:19 PM
To: Miller, Patrick; Hart, Michael
Cc: Coscarelli, Craig (C.); Cleveland, Robert (R.)
Subject: FW: EN Steel Wheel Field Action
Importance: High

Pat, as we just discussed, here is the high-level breakdown that I provided early last year...

Al Curti
Buyer, N.A. Car Wheels
Global Chassis Commodity Mgmt.
(313) 322-9379 VPO, 3E610
acurti@ford.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Curti, Al (C.A.)
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 1:32 PM
To: 'Stewart Prince'
Cc: Patrick Miller (E-mail); Drever II, Donald (D.C.); Coscarelli, Craig (C.)
Subject: RE: EN Steel Wheel Field Action

0001-024 000000

5/10/2005

From: Clark, Scott (S.R.)
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 5:27 PM
To: Ursum, Deb (D.L.)
Subject: FW: Crown Vic Steel Wheel Returns

FYI...

Scott R. Clark

Modified Vehicle Specialist
Police-Limo-Taxi-Livery
Commercial Vehicle Operations
Ford Customer Service Division
Phone: 313-380-1480
Fax: 313-248-8590
sclark10@ford.com -mailto:sclark10@ford.com

—Original Message—

From: Yerke, Eric (E.R.)
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 8:03 AM
To: Bawerth, Eric (E.E.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Tupa, Monica (M.)
Cc: Ott, David (D.L.); Christiansen, Kris (K.S.); Clark, Scott (S.R.); Alexander, Shawn (S.M.)
Subject: RE: Crown Vic Steel Wheel Returns

Monica and I will cascade this to the wheel team.

Eric R. Yerke

Warranty Engineer
Warranty Parts Analysis Center
15000 N. Commerce Drive
Dearborn, MI 48120
Phone: 313-24-83094
Fax: 313-24-83094

—Original Message—

From: Bawerth, Eric (E.E.)
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2005 4:24 PM
To: Yerke, Eric (E.R.); Campbell, Keith (K.A.); Tupa, Monica (M.)
Cc: Ott, David (D.L.); Christiansen, Kris (K.S.); Clark, Scott (S.R.); Alexander, Shawn (S.M.)
Subject: Crown Vic Steel Wheel Returns

Monica & Eric,

In our meetings yesterday and today to discuss wheel returns, we agreed to the following:

- Warranty Return Center will review returned wheels, record the part number stamped on the wheel face, and include a brief comment as to reason for the return. If there is no part number stamp, record the build date.
- If the wheel is a -CD level part, it can be scrapped
- If the wheel is a -CF or -AA level part
 - and the wheel was serviced for reasons other than a crack, and there is no visual indication of a crack, the wheel can be scrapped

Any -CF or -AA wheels that appear to be cracked, or were serviced due to an alleged crack, should be returned to Hayes Lemmerz for pressure testing. H-L will test the wheel and mark areas that are cracked.

Keith - please confirm this process with H-L.

Regards,

Eric Eiswerth
Ford Automotive Safety Office
eaiswert@ford.com
(313)390-5129

CV SPI & CD Steel Wheel

12/7/2004

- Send note to B.C. Patel - confirm Dec 9 clean date (start of morning shift) for shot pen. Ensure proper quarantining of prior level stock
- FCSD - set up to have 1st 100 pcs serviced under MM program for CF/^{old} AA level wheels
- Control lab - get status. Campbell review?
 - Campbell input
 - Goodyear input
 - Eye Litovitz input

CV PE/ED Steel Wheel

11/20/2004

- FCSD - RASP - part supply going well. Ready for customer letters and dealer bulletin update by Dec 10
- 2003 Service wheels - all new will be shot peened level
- Prior level "CF" wheels in service inventory - remark (shot peen), re-paint, and restamp as "CG" level
Paul Gillman to confirm H-L readiness and costs
- Initial production at STAP - shot peen "AA" only
- Need feedback from STAP on break point at STAP non-shot peened to shot peened (Dec 6 or Dec 13)
- FCSD - setting up parts return to WPRC
- Awaiting Central Lab report - draft out Nov 22

8004/11/16

2009-2005 CV PE & CD Steel wheels 11/16/2004

- PA State Police wheel involved in collision
 - multiple fatigue cracks initiation points
 - Areas of single impact fracture
 - Tire - bulge
 - Tire/wheel assembly will not hold air pressure post collision
 - No marks on rim of wheel indicating rim contact with road surface
 - Tire on a good wheel will hold air pressure
 - No gouge marks on road surface
 - PA photo of skid marks - three lines
 - LHS straight line mark
 - LHS wavy/cyclic mark (discuss w/ Melius)
 - RHS straight line mark
- Vehicle evaluation
 - constant radius with decreasing levels of tire pressure - monitor for understeer and wheel strike
- Collect customer symptom data and set-up request for parts return (return to WPRC (SM or Carter))

Rich-

Two changes
from Charlie.
(Ignore other
markings)

Gray