

*Ford Motor Company*

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

July 26, 2004

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: Ford Front Coil Spring Recall 04S17 and NHTSA Inquiry PE04-044

In response to a July 16, 2004 telephone request from Greg Magno of the agency, Ford Motor Company (Ford) is providing the owner and field reports and warranty claims that prompted Ford's decision to install protective shields below the front coil springs on 1999 through 2001 model year Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable vehicles in the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. This issue was also the subject of NHTSA inquiry PE04-044.

The incident data provided electronically in Appendix A (filename: 2004-07-26\_Apendix\_A) on the enclosed CD includes owner reports, field reports and warranty claims that meet the search criteria specified in Appendix B (filename: 2004-07-26\_Apendix\_B) on the enclosed CD. The incidents were individually reviewed and categorized as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description of Allegation</u>
A1	Front coil spring fracture with no tire involvement
A2	Front coil spring fracture involving tire contact

We are not providing reports that are ambiguous as to whether the front coil spring fractured because such reports did not influence the decision to proceed with the action. Based on our engineering judgment, the information in the reports is insufficient to support a determination that they pertain to the issue. Further, even if these ambiguous reports are included in the count, the states within the scope of the recall continue to represent more than 99% of incidents.

Ford notes that there are 14 total reports from states not included in the recall that allege spring fractures. However, eight of the vehicles in those reports (VINs:

1MEHM55S91G [REDACTED] 1MEHM55S11A [REDACTED] 1MEFM55S2YA [REDACTED]



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1MEFM55S0YG [REDACTED] 1MEFM53S9XG [REDACTED], 1FAFP55S0YA [REDACTED]  
1FAFP53U51G [REDACTED] were originally sold in states that are within the scope of the recall. As the agency is aware, Ford includes vehicles originally sold in a state affected by a regional recall even if the vehicle is currently registered in a state not included in the recall. Ford also updates the list of vehicles within recall affected states throughout the notification period, and will send recall notices to owners of vehicles that have been registered in those states.

The approximate volumes for the 2001 model year for each state is provided electronically in Appendix C (filename: 2004-07-26\_Apendix\_C) on the enclosed CD.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,



James P. Vondale

Attachment