



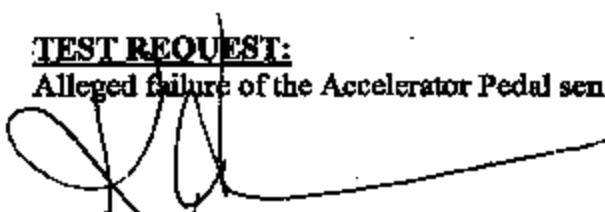
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

TEST REQUEST:

Alleged failure of the Accelerator Pedal sensor assembly.

MAR 16 2004


Kathleen E. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

NVS-210
EA04-006

Michael Monk, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct testing as described below.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is currently investigating (under EA04-006) certain model year (MY) 2001 – 2003 F Super Duty and Excursion vehicles equipped with 7.3L diesel engines and electronic throttle control (ETC). Complainants allege that the accelerator pedal (AP) sensor assembly fails and causes a loss of motive power and or the inability to increase engine speed above idle. One alleged failure mode involves a condition where a forceful application of the accelerator causes the AP sensor to fail due to a loss of sensor's output signal.

By design of the Ford ETC system, an inaccurate or implausible AP sensor output signal results in the engine returning to an idle state. Subsequently, the ETC system will function correctly if the AP signal is re-established after the throttle has been cycled to the closed (idle) position and reapplied.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the testing is to determine if the AP sensor assembly can fail when forcefully applied and if so, the magnitude of the force levels required, and any other pertinent factors.

TEST EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE:

The test equipment and the procedure can be determined after further discussion.

TEST VEHICLE(S):

In coordination with ODI, the VRTC shall obtain appropriate vehicles and AP sensor components to conduct the testing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Investigator is Scott Yon (Phone: 202/366-6761) who is available to discuss the details of the testing with your engineer.

FINAL REPORT:

It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in initial discussions with ODI.

cc:

Mr. Jeffrey Quandt, NVS-213