



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: Test Request
PE05-033
Windshield Leak Test

Date: July 7, 2005

From: Kathleen DeMeter

Reply to Attn of:
Cynthia Glass (202) 366-2920

To: Don Wilke

Background: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is investigating allegations of electrical system failure on Model Year 1999-2001 Ford Expedition sport utility vehicles. ODI has received 20 complaints. Several of the complaints allege that when it rains or snows, water leaks into the vehicle around the windshield. Service records acknowledge that the failure occurs because water leaks into the vehicle around the windshield, and seeps into the fuse box and the generic electronic module causing the windshield wipers and other electrical components to malfunction.

Objective: Conduct windshield leak test. Assess the impact of water intrusion on the vehicle's electrical components.

- Procure a Ford Expedition sport utility vehicle
- Review Ford's windshield prove-out leak test
- Conduct an extreme windshield leak test to be developed by the ODI investigator and the VRTC test engineer
- Provide complete documentation of testing parameters and component failures
- Prepare a demonstration video
- Other objectives may be determined based on discussion between the ODI investigator and the VRTC test engineer.

Test Method: Specific test methods to be proposed by VRTC and discussed with ODI.

Proposed Time Allotment: To Be Determined