U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov
Authentic US Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration uses a *digital certificate* to ensure the content has remained unchanged

Investigation: PE 11-003
Date Opened: 01/21/2011
Investigator: Kyle Bowker **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Wheel Stud Fracture

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Products: 2010 Ford Fusion
Population: 281,250 (Estimated)

Problem Description: One or more wheel mounting studs fractures, which may result in wheel separation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation is aware of four complaints on certain model year 2010 Ford Fusion vehicles that allege one or more wheel stud fractures. Three complaint vehicles belong to the same 22 vehicle fleet but were assigned to different drivers who experienced the alleged defect on three separate occasions. All four complaint vehicles had low-mileage (between approximately 5,000 and 11,000 miles) and the wheels had never been serviced prior to the alleged incidents. The complaint vehicles were originally equipped with steel wheels and decorative wheel covers with each wheel affixed to the vehicle via five lug nuts and wheel studs. At least one complaint alleges wheel stud fractures on multiple wheels. Wheel stud fractures may result in wheel separation and loss of vehicle control.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.