



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: AQ 17-001
Prompted by: Recall 15V-279
Date Opened: 01/04/2017
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Champion Ford Edinboro / Steering Shaft

Date Closed: 06/15/2018
Reviewer: Jennifer Timian

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: MY 2015 Ford F-150 Vehicles
Population: 23

Problem Description: NHTSA received information suggesting that Champion Ford Edinboro, Inc., located in Edinboro, PA, sold and delivered at least one new vehicle to a customer without having had all required safety recall repairs on that vehicle.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close Audit Query

Summary:

NHTSA opened AQ17-001 to determine whether Champion Ford Edinboro, Inc. (Champion Ford), of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, complied with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 (Safety Act) and its implementing regulations. The Safety Act requires, among other things, that a manufacturer notify its dealers of defects related to motor vehicle safety and non-compliances with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and, in turn, that a dealer not sell a new vehicle subject to a recall unless the recall remedy has been performed (49 U.S.C. §30120(i)).

NHTSA issued an information request (IR) letter to Champion Ford on January 4, 2017. Champion Ford responded to this request on January 19, 2017. Also on January 4, 2017, an IR letter was issued to Ford Motor Company (Ford) and a response was received from Ford on January 25, 2017. Finally, another IR was issued to Champion Ford on May 31, 2017, and Champion Ford's response letter was submitted to NHTSA on June 14, 2017.

NHTSA's investigation indicated that Champion Ford did sell and deliver recalled vehicles that did not have the recall remedy completed at the time the vehicles were delivered to the customers. NHTSA therefore concluded that Champion Ford was liable for civil penalties for violations of the Safety Act, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §30165. Under a Settlement Agreement dated April 16, 2018, Champion Ford agreed to pay compromised civil penalties in the amount of \$20,000. Champion Ford also represented in writing that it repaired all twenty-three (23) recalled vehicles identified in AQ17-001 and will strictly adhere to Ford's procedures requiring dealers to check for outstanding safety recalls prior to customer delivery. NHTSA's Recall Management Division has verified that all twenty-three (23) vehicles have been remedied of the safety recalls identified in AQ17-001.

This Audit Query is closed.