



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



Subject: PE23-013 Door Check Arm Attachment Point Failure
Office of Defects Investigation

From: Jayson Winick, General Engineer
Office of Defects Investigation

Through: Peter Kivett, VDD-C Division Chief
Office of Defects Investigation

To: PE23-013 Investigation File

October 5, 2023

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) opened PE23-013 on July 7, 2023, to investigate allegations of a failed check arm bracket in the front doors of 2020-2021 Ford Escape vehicles. On October 4th, 2023, ODI and Ford met at Wray Ford in Bossier City, LA to inspect a consumer vehicle that had reported experiencing the failure related to this investigation.

The consumer had reported a failure of the check arm attachment point in the driver door of their 2020 Ford Escape. The consumer also reported multiple inadvertent door openings while driving, and one door opening upon impact from a rear end collision. The vehicle was confirmed to have experienced the failure related to PE23-013, and the failure was evaluated to determine if an unreasonable risk to vehicle highway safety was present. ODI and Ford performed an inspection of the vehicle, including driver and front passenger door disassembly, evaluation of door latch mechanism performance, static and road force testing, and more.

This investigation is currently ongoing, and NHTSA will report the findings and outcome when the investigation is closed.