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May 31, 2024

Mr. Peter Kivett, Chief
Vehicle Defect Division C
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W45-302
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Kivett:

Subject: RQ24-008 Part 1

Ford Motor Company's (Ford) Part 1 response to the Agency's letter dated April 25, 2024, regarding its investigation allegations of underhood fires caused by fuel leak in certain model year (MY) 2022-2023 Ford Bronco Sport and 2022 Ford Escape vehicles is attached. This response covers Requests #1 - #9 of the information request.

Ford's response to this Recall Query information request was prepared pursuant to a diligent search for the information requested. While we have employed our best efforts to provide responsive information, the breadth of the Agency's request and the requirement that information be provided on an expedited basis make this a difficult task. We nevertheless have made a substantial effort to provide thorough and accurate information, and we would be pleased to meet with Agency personnel to discuss any aspect of this Preliminary Evaluation.

The scope of Ford's investigation conducted to locate responsive information focused on Ford employees most likely to be knowledgeable about the subject matter of this inquiry and on review of Ford files in which responsive information ordinarily would be expected to be found and to which Ford ordinarily would refer. Ford notes that although electronic information was included within the scope of its search, Ford has not attempted to retrieve from computer storage electronic files that were overwritten or deleted. As the Agency is aware, such files generally are unavailable to the computer user even if they still exist and are retrievable through expert means. To the extent that the Agency's definition of Ford includes suppliers, contractors, and affiliated enterprises for which Ford does not exercise day-to-day operational control, we note that information belonging to such entities ordinarily is not in Ford's possession, custody, or control.

Ford has construed this request as pertaining to vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States, its protectorates, and territories.

Ford notes that some of the information being produced pursuant to this inquiry may contain personal information such as customer names, addresses, telephone numbers, and complete Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). Ford is producing such personal information in an unredacted form to facilitate the Agency's investigation with the understanding that the Agency will not make such personal information available to the public under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

Answers to your specific questions for Requests #1 - #9 are in the folders included in this submission. As requested, after each numeric designation, we have set forth verbatim the request for information, followed by our response. Unless otherwise stated, Ford has undertaken to provide responsive documents dated up to and including April 25, 2024, the date of your inquiry. Ford has searched within the following offices for responsive documents: Environment, Safety Engineering and Compliance, Ford Customer Service Division, Global Core Engineering, Office of the General Counsel, and North American Product Development.

The agency defined "Subject vehicles" as "all MY 2022-2023 Ford Bronco Sport vehicles produced between October 17, 2022 and January 13, 2023, as well as all MY 2022 Ford Escape vehicles produced between October 17, 2022 and December 15, 2022 manufactured for sale or lease in the United States, including, but not limited to, the District of Columbia, and current U.S. territories and possessions".

The agency defined "Peer vehicles" as "all MY 2020-2023 Ford Escape vehicles produced between November 19, 2018 and October 17, 2022, as well as all MY 2021-2023 Ford Bronco Sport vehicles produced between February 5, 2020 and October 17, 2022 manufactured for sale or lease in the United States, including, but not limited to, the District of Columbia, and current U.S. territories and possessions".

The agency defined the "Subject recall" as "NHTSA Recall 24V-187 (Ford Recall 24S16) issued on March 8, 2024".

The agency defined the "Peer recall" as "NTSHA Recall 22V-859 (Ford Recall 22S73) issued on November 18, 2022".

The agency defined the "Subject component" as "all fuel injectors manufactured on the subject vehicles".

The agency defined the "Alleged defect" as "Failure or malfunction of the subject component resulting in a fuel leak, fuel odor inside and/or outside of the vehicle, accumulation of liquid fuel and/or fuel vapor near ignition sources, and under hood fires".

If you have any questions concerning this response, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


For:
Emily Frascaroli

Attachment