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

NHTSA

June 18, 2026

Tom Single
Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive
Suite 500
Dearborn, MI 48126

Subject: Information Request ID EA26001-01

Dear Mr. Tom Single,

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened an Engineering Analysis (EA26001) to investigate allegations of Unintended Transmission Downshift and Rear Wheel Lock-up in certain model year (MY) 2015-2017 Ford F-150 vehicles manufactured by Ford Motor Company (Ford), and to request certain information.

This office has received 329 reports of Unintended Transmission Downshift and Rear Wheel Lock-up in certain MY 2015-2017 Ford F-150 vehicles. These reports allege a transmission downshift with temporary rear wheel lock up associated with the downshift event. A copy of the reports will be provided to you electronically for your review and information.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

- Subject vehicles: All MY 2015-2017 Ford F-150 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 equipped with the 6R80 transmission.
- Peer vehicles: All MY 2018-2020 Ford F-150 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 equipped with the 6R80 transmission.
- Subject component: All transmission and all subsequent control systems related to the transmission (including, but not limited to, the molded lead frame and the Transmission Range Sensor) manufactured on the subject vehicles.
- Alleged defect: Unintended Transmission Downshift and Rear Wheel Lock-up.
- Ford: Ford Motor Company, all of its past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to its principal offices or any of its field or other locations, including all of its divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and

all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of Ford (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or were involved in any way as of January 1, 2009, with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:

a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g., quality control);
b. Testing, assessment or evaluation;
c. Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, lawsuits or arbitrations; or
d. Communication to, from or intended for zone representatives, fleets, dealers, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from dealers.

- Document: "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by Ford, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, "document(s)" also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by Ford or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.

- Other Terms: To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms "claim," "consumer complaint," "dealer field report," "field report," "fire," "fleet," "good will," "make," "model," "model year," "notice," "property damage," "property damage claim," "rollover," "type," "warranty," "warranty adjustment," and "warranty claim," whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 C.F.R. § 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. Insofar as Ford has previously provided a document to ODI, Ford may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After Ford's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. State, by model and model year, the number of peer vehicles Ford has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each subject vehicles and peer vehicles manufactured to date by Ford, state the following:

   a. Vehicle identification number (17-character VIN);
   b. Make;
   c. Model;
   d. Model Year;
   e. Subject component part number and design version installed as original equipment;
   f. Date of manufacture (MM/DD/YYYY);
   g. Date warranty coverage commenced (MM/DD/YYYY); and
   h. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased, or delivered for sale or lease (postal abbreviation).

   Provide the table in Microsoft Excel, or a compatible format, entitled "PRODUCTION DATA."

2. State the number of each of the following, received by Ford, or of which Ford is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles and peer vehicles:

   a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
   b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
   c. Reports involving a crash, injury or fatality;
   d. Property damage claims;
   e. Third-party arbitration proceedings, both pending and closed, where Ford is or was a party to the arbitration; and
   f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Ford is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "f" state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "c" through "f" provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Ford's assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "e" and "f" identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

3. Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 2, state the following information:

   a. Ford's file number or other identifier used;
   b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 2 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
   c. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), email address and telephone number (please use distinct fields for each data type);
   d. Vehicle owner or fleet street address, city, state (postal abbreviation), and ZIP code (please use distinct fields for each data type);
   e. Vehicle's 17-character VIN;
   f. Vehicle's make, model and model year (please use distinct fields for each data type);
   g. Vehicle's mileage at time of incident (numeric data type);
   h. Incident date (MM/DD/YYYY);
   i. Report or claim date (MM/DD/YYYY);
   j. Whether a crash is alleged;
   k. Whether property damage is alleged;
   l. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
   m. Number of alleged fatalities if any.

   Provide this information in Microsoft Excel, or a compatible format, entitled "REQUEST NUMBER TWO DATA."

4. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 2. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method Ford used for organizing the documents. Describe in detail the search methods and search criteria used by Ford to identify the items in response to Request No. 2.

5. State, by model and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by Ford to date that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles and peer vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign.

   Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

   a. Ford's claim number;

b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), email address and telephone number (please use distinct fields for each data type);
c. Vehicle owner or fleet street address, city, state (postal abbreviation), and ZIP code (please use distinct fields for each data type);
d. 17-character VIN;
e. Repair date (MM/DD/YYYY);
f. Vehicle mileage at time of repair (numeric data type);
g. Repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code (please use distinct fields for each data type);
h. Labor operation number(s);
i. Problem code(s);
j. Diagnostic trouble code(s);
k. Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
l. If the vehicle has ever has its molded lead frame replaced and date of replacement, including multiple replacements;
m. If the vehicle has ever had any of its sensors mounted on the molded lead frame replaced and date of replacement;
n. Concern stated by customer;
o. Cause as stated on the repair order;
p. Correction as stated on the repair order; and
q. Additional comments, if any, by dealer/technician relating to claim and/or repair.

Provide this information in Microsoft Excel, or a compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA."

6. In Ford's responses to PE25-002, Ford identified a population of MY 2018-2020 F-150 vehicles that were equipped with the 6R80 transmission (the peer vehicles). However, the peer vehicles were not included in safety recall 26V-237. Did Ford review the subject defect within this vehicle population? If so, what determinations were made to exclude the peer vehicle population from safety recall 26V-237?

7. Since the submission of Ford's response to PE25-002 Information Request Letters, has Ford conducted any vehicle testing and/or component-level testing to investigate and document the effects of Transmission Range Sensor signal loss on vehicle performance (e.g., deceleration rate) in different driving scenarios? If so, what conditions and what vehicle speeds were tested, what roadway conditions were tested (e.g., wet surface, gravel surface, road curvature, grades, etc.), and what were the outcomes of those tests? Has Ford conducted any vehicle testing involving F-150 vehicles towing different types of trailers?

8. Did Ford identify any other potential safety concerns (like vehicle rollaway events, loss of tire traction events, uncommanded events, or other events) while conducting their tests/assessments during this investigation?

9. Please provide a detailed description of the recall remedy outlined in safety recall 26V-237. Additionally, please provide the data (vehicle testing, component testing, or other tests/ assessments) that Ford replied upon when making the determination to recall the subject vehicles.

## Legal Authority for This Request

This letter is being sent to Ford pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports. It constitutes a new request for information.

## Civil Penalties

Ford's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject Ford to Civil Penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) The Vehicle Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. § 30165(a)(3), provides for Civil Penalties of up to $27,874 per violation per day, with a maximum of $139,356,994 for a related series of daily violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. See 49 C.F.R. § 578.6(a)(3). This includes failing to respond completely, accurately, or in a timely manner to ODI information requests.

If Ford cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney client, attorney work product, or other privilege, Ford does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, Ford must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

## Confidential Business Information

If Ford's response contains any information that you claim is confidential business information (CBI), you will need to upload a "confidential version" file and a redacted "public version" file of each file for which Ford is requesting confidential treatment to NHTSA's Safety Defect Investigations (SDI) Portal. For each file submitted through the SDI Portal for which Ford is requesting confidential treatment, Ford must check the "Contains CBI" box. Once all Ford's files have been uploaded in the SDI Portal, Ford will need to click on the "Finalize CBI Submission" button in the SDI Portal and then submit its request letter for confidential treatment and Part 512 certification directly to the Office of the Chief Counsel in NHTSA's Confidential Business Information (CBI) Portal.

After Ford submits its request for confidential treatment and certificate in NHTSA's CBI Portal, the CBI Portal will assign a package identification number for your future reference and all "confidential version" and "public version" files submitted as part of the CBI request will be accessible by both NHTSA's Office of the Chief Counsel and NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation.

Please refer to EA26001-01 in Ford's response to this letter and in any request for confidential treatment that Ford may submit in response to this letter.

Please see enclosure 1 for additional instructions on submitting a request for confidential treatment that is compliant with 49 CFR Part 512 (specifically, a request for confidential treatment must include the required parts that are discussed in enclosure 1).

## Due Date

Ford's response to this letter must be submitted to this office by July 28, 2026. If Ford finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, Ford must request an extension from me through the Safety Defects Investigation Portal no later than five business days before the response due date. If Ford is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information Ford then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please email Joseph Geissler of my staff at joseph.geissler@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Tanya Topka

Tanya Topka, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

ENCLOSURE 1 - INFORMATION FOR REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

If you believe that your response contains any material that you claim is confidential business information, submit these materials to NHTSA's Office of the Chief Counsel in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 512. **All requests for confidential treatment should be submitted directly to the Office of the Chief Counsel via NHTSA's Confidential Business Information (CBI) Portal. If you do not currently have a user account in the CBI Portal, you may send a registration request to the CBI Portal's Help Desk at** cbi-helpdesk@dot.gov.

**Prior to directly submitting your request for confidential treatment to the Office of the Chief Counsel in the CBI Portal, you will need to upload all "confidential version" and "public version" files in NHTSA's Safety Defect Investigations (SDI) Portal.**

Requests for confidential treatment are governed by Part 512. A current version of this regulation is available on the internet at http://www.ecfr.gov. by selecting Title 49 "Transportation," next selecting "Parts 500 - 599," and finally selecting Part 512 "Confidential Business Information."

How to request confidential treatment:

NHTSA is treating electronic submission as an acceptable method for submitting confidential business information to the agency under Part 512. If you claim that any of the information or documents provided in your response constitutes confidential business information within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, you must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with Part 512, to the Office of the Chief Counsel. Requests for confidential treatment should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Counsel in NHTSA's CBI Portal. Do not send a hardcopy of a request for confidential treatment to NHTSA's headquarters.

Your request must include a request letter that contains supporting information, pursuant to Part 512.8. Your request must also include a certificate, pursuant to Part 512.4(b) and Part 512, Appendix A.

You are required to submit one unredacted "confidential version" of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to Part 512.6, the words "ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION" or "CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN BRACKETS" (as applicable) must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential. In the latter situation, where not all information on the page is claimed to be confidential, identify each item of information for which confidentiality is requested within brackets: "[ ]."

You are also required to submit one redacted "public version" of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to Part 512.5(a)(2), the redacted "public version" should include redactions of any information for which you are seeking confidential treatment (i.e., the only information that should be unredacted is information for which you are not seeking confidential treatment).

For questions about a request for confidential treatment, please contact Dan Rabinovitz in the Office of the Chief Counsel at Daniel.Rabinovitz@dot.gov.

Enclosure 2, The subject reports referenced in the introduction of this letter may be viewed at the NHTSA.gov website using the following ODI reference numbers: 11482536, 11482933, 11485509, 11485842, 11487293, 11493633, 11498638, 11499401, 11508558, 11510607, 11513008, 11513750, 11514866, 11515180, 11515620, 11516182, 11519319, 11519717, 11535716, 11540726, 11540988, 11544841, 11545124, 11547976, 11554999, 11566470, 11568298, 11568632, 11574641, 11580172, 11580212, 11580291, 11582563, 11587933, 11588264, 11591046, 11591854, 11593302, 11593800, 11595064, 11596359, 11596362, 11596380, 11596408, 11596477, 11596529, 11596595, 11596809, 11596818, 11596826, 11596857, 11596861, 11596887, 11597008, 11597033, 11597158, 11597218, 11597366, 11597416, 11597700, 11597843, 11597907, 11598020, 11598218, 11598222, 11598281, 11598323, 11598331, 11598555, 11598892, 11600558, 11601460, 11601538, 11602264, 11602323, 11602360, 11603059, 11603486, 11604690, 11604862, 11604896, 11605159, 11605199, 11606724, 11606771, 11607543, 11607632, 11607836, 11608036, 11608331, 11608646, 11608930, 11609552, 11610137, 11610803, 11612654, 11613021, 11613457, 11613665, 11614646, 11615212, 11616770, 11617126, 11617176, 11617696, 11618434, 11618733, 11618915, 11619728, 11623704, 11626818, 11627604, 11628366, 11630037, 11633786, 11633938, 11635353, 11636651, 11640514, 11641106, 11644406, 11645982, 11650070, 11650083, 11650142, 11650187, 11650195, 11650198, 11650209, 11650211, 11650215, 11650234, 11650293, 11650297, 11650304, 11650305, 11650306, 11650323, 11650325, 11650329, 11650333, 11650336, 11650342, 11650349, 11650362, 11650385, 11650396, 11650397, 11650404, 11650408, 11650415, 11650443, 11650453, 11650467, 11650494, 11650497, 11650517, 11650533, 11650544, 11650561, 11650571, 11650572, 11650639, 11650666, 11650673, 11650742, 11650763, 11650782, 11650831, 11650844, 11650875, 11650934, 11650971, 11650978, 11650992, 11651000, 11651003, 11651052, 11651090, 11651095, 11651142, 11651157, 11651224, 11651255, 11651301, 11651305, 11651406, 11651534, 11651542, 11651558, 11651561, 11651563, 11651627, 11651728, 11651763, 11652020, 11652041, 11652044, 11652204, 11652321, 11652598, 11652779, 11653044, 11653083, 11653178, 11653374, 11653704, 11653978, 11654087, 11654709, 11655384, 11655413, 11655626, 11655716, 11655989, 11656011, 11656110, 11656257, 11656448, 11656655, 11656697, 11656930, 11656967, 11657346, 11658419, 11658641, 11658695, 11658746, 11659011, 11659146, 11659436, 11659625, 11659629, 11659644, 11660317, 11660620, 11661046, 11661127, 11661537, 11661736, 11661859, 11661909, 11662170, 11662225, 11662821, 11663278, 11663398, 11663806, 11664347, 11664467, 11664834, 11664948, 11665226, 11665290, 11665767, 11665806, 11666059, 11666921, 11667180, 11667377, 11669928, 11670464, 11670692, 11671012, 11671738, 11671943, 11672694, 11673331, 11674527, 11674604, 11674621, 11674992, 11675013, 11675221, 11676558, 11676656, 11676852, 11677451, 11677524, 11678010, 11678426, 11678764, 11679077, 11679415, 11679837, 11679838, 11680330, 11681548, 11681591, 11681613, 11681774, 11681911, 11681996, 11682201, 11683269, 11683358, 11683785, 11683833, 11684045, 11684828, 11684906, 11685085, 11685215, 11685394, 11685565, 11686551, 11686602, 11687133, 11687505, 11687584, 11687592, 11687717, 11688171, 11688682, 11689763, 11689855, 11690894, 11691792, 11692003, 11692776, 11693360, 11693791, 11694049, 11694310, 11694494, 11694527, 11694705, 11695038, 11695704.