



L. W. Camp
Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental And Safety Engineering

Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, Michigan 48126 USA

April 13, 2000

00V-115 (01)

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company submits the following information concerning a safety-related recall action that it is initiating.

573.5 (c) (2)

Certain 1999-2000 model year Ford Econoline E-350 cutaways and stripped chassis with single rear wheels (SRW) built at the Lorain Assembly Plant from August 17, 1998 through December 23, 1999.

573.5 (c) (3)

Approximately 3,300 vehicles.

573.5 (c) (4)

Unknown.

573.5 (c) (5)

The subject vehicles were built with lug nuts that could potentially bottom out on a shoulder on the studs when used in a SRW application. If this occurs, there could be inadequate clamp load to attach the wheel to the axle. In some cases, this could result in either noise, damage to the wheel and hub, or in extreme cases, in the loss of a rear wheel while the vehicle is being driven.



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00K-115 (02)

573.5 (c) (6)

Ford first became aware of a single report of this concern in June of 1999 and initially believed the report to be an isolated incident. After closing the internal investigation of the concern in September 1999, it was reopened on January 20, 2000 following the receipt of additional reports from a second fleet. To date, Ford is aware of 10 reports of loose rear wheels on the subject vehicles and one report of a rear wheel separating from the vehicle. Ford is not aware of any accidents, injuries, or fires related to this condition.

573.5 (c) (8)

Ford will notify owners of record of the subject vehicles to return them to dealers for replacement of the rear wheel attaching studs with a revised stud having a different profile that precludes the interference with the lug nuts. It is currently anticipated that this notification will occur during the week of May 15, 2000.

573.5 (c) (9)

Ford does not plan to make a public statement concerning this action. Notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford Customer Service Division will be forwarded when available.

573.5 (c) (11)

Ford has assigned campaign number 00S08 to this action.

Very truly yours,



L. W. Camp