

Ford Motor Company

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

L. W. Camp, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental and Safety Engineering

October 30, 2000

00V-350 (01)

Mr. Kenneth N. 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 1998-2000 model year Ford Contour bi-fuel vehicles built at the Kansas City Assembly Plant and modified at the TDM Manhattan Modification Center from May 20, 1997 through April 14, 2000.

Because these vehicles are not produced in VIN order, information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-800-392-3673) or contacting a local Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer, who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford OASIS computer system.

573.5 (c) (3)

Approximately 3,750 vehicles.

573.5 (c) (4)

Unknown.

573.5 (c) (5)

The subject vehicles may have a fuel tank filler pipe grommet that may have been damaged during the installation of the bi-fuel system. If the grommet is damaged, fuel could leak. Fuel leakage in sufficient quantity in the presence of an ignition source could potentially result in a fire. Ford is aware of 15 field reports and 25 warranty reports (some of which



00V-350 (03)

may be on the same vehicles) of the condition, none of which were reported to have resulted in an accident, injury or fire.

573.5 (c) (6)

Ford first became aware of this condition when it was reported by a fleet during June, 2000. Further investigation determined that the potential for damage existed when the fuel tank was removed and reinstalled during the installation of the alternative fuel system at the vehicle modifier.

573.5 (c) (8)

Ford will notify owners of record of the affected vehicles to return them to dealers for replacement of the fuel tank filler pipe grommet. It is currently anticipated that owner notification will occur on or before the week of November 27, 2000.

573.5 (c) (9)

Ford does not plan to make a public statement concerning this action. A copy of 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 00S38 to this action.

Sincerely,



L. W. Camp

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