

Ford Motor Company

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

James P. Vondale, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental & Safety Engineering

March 5, 2002

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

02V-068 ① of ③

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

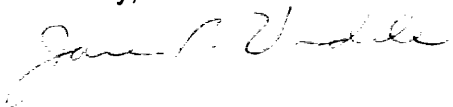
Re: Ford Recall No. 02S34 –1999 Model Year Ford F-250/350/450/550 Parking Brake

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall to replace the front parking brake (P/B) cable and control mechanism (controller) on certain 1999 model year F-250/350/450/550 manual transmission vehicles in order to address certain reports of fatigue failure of the front cable input button
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 51,846 1999 model year F-250/350/450/550 manual transmission vehicles produced at the Kentucky Truck Plant from January 3, 1998 (Job #1) through September 30, 1998.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – Fatigue failure of the front P/B cable input button on manual transmission vehicles could result in failure of the P/B system to hold the vehicle stationary. These failures are most likely to occur during application of the P/B pedal— but may also occur after the operator has left the vehicle.
- Service Procedure – Dealers will replace the front parking brake cable and the controller and verify performance of the P/B system on the affected vehicles.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,



Attachment
02S34 5d/scb



40 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
02S34 – 1999 MODEL YEAR F-SERIES SUPERDUTY PARKING BRAKE

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 voluntarily safety recall action.

573.5 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles

All 1999 Model Year F-250/350/450/550 manual transmission vehicles produced at the Kentucky Truck Plant from Job #1 through September 30, 1998.

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

573.5 (c) (3) – Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 51,846 vehicles.

573.5 (c) (4) -- Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition

Unknown.

573.5 (c) (5) – Description of the Defect

For vehicles produced through September 30, 1998 a manufacturing process resulted in a higher rate of early fatigue failures where the front P/B cable input button separated from the cable strands. This failure may result in the P/B system becoming inoperable.

573.5 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On March 13, 2000 NHTSA opened a Recall Query (RQ) investigation --RQ00-010-- based on six reports involving 1999 through 2000 model year F-250/350/450/550 and 2000 model year Excursion vehicles alleging that the P/B system failed to hold the vehicles stationary. Ford provided responses to NHTSA's RQ inquiry on June 27, July 25, August 31, and November 10, 2000. On January 19, 2001 NHTSA upgraded the investigation to an Engineering Analysis (EA) --EA01-002-- concerning only 1999 model year F-250/350/450/550 vehicles. Ford provided responses to NHTSA's EA inquiry on April 10,

March 5, 2002

Attachment

April 27, May 29, and June 12, 2001. Ford also made presentations to NHTSA on September 24 and November 7, 2001. Ford submitted a supplemental response to NHTSA on November 15, 2001.

Ford has conducted an extensive investigation beginning with NHTSA's RQ and concluded that the front P/B cable input button may experience a fatigue failure on 1999 model year vehicles produced from Job #1 through September 30, 1998. Ford's investigation found that a supplier manufacturing process change involving the front P/B cable occurred in late September 1998 that resulted in increased fatigue life.

573.5 (c) (8) – Service Program

Owners of the affected vehicles will be requested to return vehicles to dealers for replacement of the front P/B cable. The controller will also be replaced to simplify the service procedure. There will be no charge to owners for this service. Ford anticipates that owner notification will begin the week of April 8, 2002.

573.5 (c) (9) -- Press Statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford does not plan to make a public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford Customer Service Division will be forwarded to the Agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) – Recall Number

Ford has assigned campaign number 02S34 (Safety Recall) to this action.