

*Ford Motor Company*

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Automotive Safety Office  
Environmental and Safety Engineering

August 4, 2003

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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:

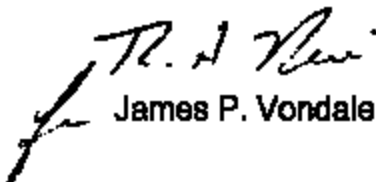
Subject: Ford Recall No. 03S06 – Certain 2001 to 2003 Model Year Ford Econoline  
5.4L Cutaway Chassis Cabs with the school bus option.

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2001 to 2003 model year Econoline 5.4L Cutaway Chassis Cab with the school bus option to inspect and if necessary add two missing brackets and two outrigger members in the area of the fuel tank.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 64 vehicles (21 United States, 43 in Canada)
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – The brackets and outrigger members are intended to enhance crash performance.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified and Ford will send service technicians to the owner's sight to inspect and add the brackets and outriggers as required.

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

Sincerely,

  
James P. Vondale



**49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**  
**03S06 – 2001– 2003 MODEL YEAR ECONOLINE - 5.4L CUTAWAY CHASSIS CABS**  
**WITH SCHOOL BUS OPTION. MISBUILD OF BRACKETS AND**  
**OUTRIGGER MEMBERS**

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

**573.6 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles**

2001 to 2003 model year Ford Econoline 5.4L Cutaway Chassis Cab, with the school bus option built between, June 18, 2001 through March 20, 2003 at the Lorain Assembly Plant.

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 (1-800-392-3873) or by contacting a local Ford dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-Line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

**573.6 (c) (3) – Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected**

Approximately: 64 vehicles (21 United States and Federalized Territories, 43 in Canada).

**573.6 (c) (4) -- Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition**

Unknown.

**573.6 (c) (5) – Description of Defect**

Ford cannot confirm that 64 cutaway chassis cabs with the school bus option were properly assembled with the additional two brackets and two outriggers. The brackets and outrigger members are intended to enhance crash performance.

**573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events**

On April 17, 2003 Ford Critical Concern Review Group was notified that two E-350 school bus cut away vehicles were built without two brackets and two outrigger members in the fuel tank area. The condition was identified at a vehicle modifier before the vehicles were completed. Plant engineering then conducted a review of the build process to determine if any additional units had been built without the brackets or outrigger members. While no additional vehicles were determined to have been misbuilt, Ford could not confirm that 64 vehicles were properly assembled. As of July 23, 2003 there are no known accidents or injuries attributed to this condition.

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**573.6 (c) (8) Service Program**

Owners will be notified and Ford will send service technicians to the owner's site to inspect and add the brackets and outrigger members as required.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin August 25, 2003 and be completed by August 25, 2003. Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall was provided to the agency on February 28, 2003.

**573.6 (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 will be forwarded when available.

**573.6 (c) (11) – Recall Number**

Ford has assigned recall number 03S06 to this action.

**573.13 (c) (2) - Ending Date for Reimbursement Eligibility**

The ending date for reimbursement eligibility for cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners per Ford's general reimbursement plan is September 4, 2003.