



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

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OCT 12 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James P. Vondale
Director, Automotive Safety Office
Ford Motor Company
P.O. Box 1904
Dearborn, MI 48121

NVS-215 Ira

Dear Mr. Vondale:

Ford Motor Company (Ford) is requested, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30165, 30166, and 30119, to renotify owners involved in safety recall 03V-144 who have not had their vehicles corrected or otherwise accounted for. This recall involves 43,459 MY 1999 and 2000 Lincoln Continental vehicles which the driver and/or passenger side air bag could deploy as a result of underbody impacts near the sensors. The remedy for this recall campaign was to recalibrate the air bag sensors. Owner notification began on March 31, 2003. Through the second quarter of 2004, Ford's sixth reporting quarter, Ford reports that of the 43,459 vehicles involved, 15,666 have been remedied, resulting in a completion rate of 36 percent.

Ford should conduct the owner renotification in accordance with the guidelines listed below.

- Before conducting the owner renotification, Ford should obtain an updated owner list, for this recall campaign, based on current state motor vehicle registration records.
- Ford's proposed owner renotification letter for this recall must meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.10, "Follow-up Notification," and must be submitted to NHTSA for review before owner renotification begins. Part 577.10(e)(1) specifically requires that the renotification letter be identified as a "follow-up to an earlier communication."
- In addition to the six quarterly status reports required under 49 CFR Part 573.6, "Quarterly Reports," Ford is requested to file three additional quarterly status reports.



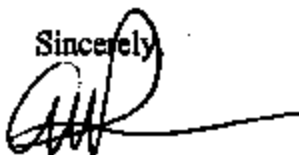
DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238

- Furnish a proposed schedule for conducting the owner renotification that includes the following information:
 - a. the date on which the search of current state motor vehicle registration records will be initiated in order to update the original owner list;
 - b. the approximate date on which the revised owner list will be available to initiate owner renotification;
 - c. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will begin; and
 - d. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will be completed (if the owner renotification is to be staggered, give the beginning and ending owner renotification date for each segment).

Ford's renotification schedule and a draft of the proposed owner renotification letter must be submitted to this office by November 10, 2004.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Kelly Schuler of my staff at (202) 366-5227, by fax at (202) 366-7882, or by e-mail at kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Person", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement