

Ford Motor Company

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DEPT. OF
DEFECT INVESTIGATION

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

July 12, 2004

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

04V-331
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Subject: Ford Recall No. 04S19 – Certain 2004 model year Ford Ranger regular cab pick-up trucks.

Summary

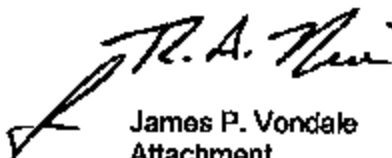
- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2004 model year Ford Ranger regular cab pick-up trucks to inspect the frame adjacent to the fuel tank to determine if the frame flange has been properly formed. A vehicle found to have a frame with an improperly formed flange will be replaced.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 1,395 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – The frame rail supplier may have produced a limited number of frames with a flange that was not properly formed. If the flange is not properly formed, it may contact the fuel tank, and over time, abrade the fuel tank. This may lead to fuel leakage resulting in a fuel odor and/or MIL light illumination. Ford has determined that the vehicles will still meet FMVSS 301 criteria; however, a vehicle with a frame with an improperly formed flange may not satisfy Ford's internal crash test performance guidelines for fuel system integrity.

There have been no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

- Service Procedure – Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the frame rail adjacent to the fuel tank inspected for a protruding flange. A vehicle found to have a frame with an improperly formed flange will be replaced.

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

Sincerely,


James P. Vondala
Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
04S19 -- 2004 MODEL YEAR FORD RANGER REGULAR CAB PICK UP TRUCK VEHICLES

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 recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

573.6 (c) (2) -- Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are 2004 model year Ranger regular cab pick-up trucks built at the Twin Cities Assembly Plant (TCAP) from June 2, 2004 through June 25, 2004.

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 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 1,395 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

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

Unknown.

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of the Defect

The frame rail supplier may have produced a limited number of frames with a flange that was not properly formed. If the flange is not properly formed, it may contact the fuel tank, and over time, abrade the fuel tank. This may lead to fuel leakage resulting in a fuel odor and/or MIL light illumination. Ford has determined that the vehicles will still meet FMVSS 301 criteria; however, a vehicle with a frame that has an improperly formed flange may not satisfy Ford's internal crash test performance guidelines for fuel system integrity.

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events

On June 30, 2004 the Ford Critical Concern Review Group was notified that the frame supplier may have produced and shipped a limited number of frames that had central rail section flanges that were not properly formed. Analysis of this condition identified the potential for contact between the flange and the fuel tank leading to the decision to initiate the recall action. There are no accidents or injuries attributed to this condition.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Dealers will be instructed to inspect the frame flange in the area of the fuel tank and, if it is found to be malformed, to replace the vehicle. There will be no charge to owners for the inspection or for any necessary vehicle replacements. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin on July 19, 2004 and be completed on July 19, 2004.

In accordance with Part 573.13 (d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this problem as Ford's original warranty program would have provided for a free repair of the problem.

573.6 (c) (9) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford does not at this time plan to make a statement to the media concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the Notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded to the agency when available.

573.6(c) (11) -- Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 04S19 to this action.