



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

December 6, 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-574
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

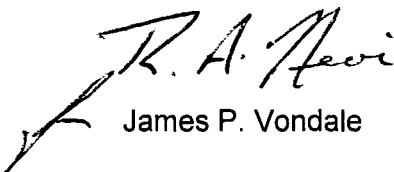
Subject: Ford Recall No. 04S25 – Certain 2002 through 2004 Model Year Ford Escape Vehicles Built With 3.0L V6 Engines – Accelerator Cable Replacement

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford Motor Company (Ford) is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2002 through 2004 model year Ford Escape vehicles built with 3.0L V6 engines manufactured from May 30, 2001 through January 23, 2004, to replace the accelerator cable.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 470,245 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – The accelerator cable inner liner may migrate out of the conduit at the dash panel end fitting and may come in contact with the accelerator pedal assembly. Under certain circumstances the pedal may not return to the fully released position.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the accelerator cable 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. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
04S25 – CERTAIN 2002 THROUGH 2004 MODEL YEAR FORD ESCAPE 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 2002 through 2004 model year Ford Escape vehicles with 3.0L V6 engines built at the Kansas City and Ohio Assembly Plants from May 30, 2001 through January 23, 2004, as identified by specific VIN numbers.

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 or Lincoln-Mercury 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 470,245 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

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

All of the subject vehicles may experience the condition.

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

The accelerator cable inner liner may, over time, migrate out of the conduit at the dash panel fitting during vehicle operation. The liner may migrate to the point that it contacts the accelerator pedal arm (part of the accelerator pedal assembly). Under these conditions the liner may prevent the pedal from fully returning, which may not allow the throttle body to fully return to the "idle" position. Typically the condition results in a progressive increase in the "idle" speed if liner migration continues over time, but may cause a more sudden increase if a greater portion of the cable moves at one time.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On March 30, 2004, the Ford Critical Concern Review Group was notified by engineering of reports of alleged elevated engine idle speed on Ford Escape vehicles built with 3.0L V6 engines. Analysis conducted in June, 2004 on 25 warranty returned accelerator cables identified 12 cables that exhibited some level of inner liner migration out of the conduit at the dash panel fitting. None of these 12 cables caused elevated engine "idle" speed. Further analysis determined that if the liner continues to migrate sufficiently, it may contact the pedal assembly and prevent the throttle from returning to idle.

To obtain additional information Ford conducted a review of customer vehicles in September, 2004. Subsequent analysis of the parts from these vehicles also identified some cables with minimal amounts of liner migration. There were no allegations of elevated engine idle speeds for these vehicles.

vehicles. No design or manufacturing process changes at the supplier have been identified at this time that would account for this condition or differentiate performance based on model year.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Dealers will be instructed to replace the accelerator cable.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin on January 17, 2005 and be completed on or before January 19, 2005. 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 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 04S25 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 January 29, 2005.