Ford Motor Company

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

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

04V-603
(3 pages)

December 17, 2004

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. 04C10 - Certain 2005 model year E-450, cut-away trucks.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary compliance recall involving the tire placard on certain 2005 model year E-450 cut-away vehicles. A supplemental tire placard label with corrected information for rear axle tire inflation pressure will be provided for vehicles that have not been completed. Vehicles that have been completed will receive a supplemental tire label and new rear tires.

- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 2,902 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

- Description of Non-Compliance – FMVSS 120 Section S5.3.1 requires that the tire label indicate the tire size and recommended cold inflation pressure such that the sum of the load ratings of the tires on each axle is appropriate for the GAWR on the label. The tire pressure is incorrectly listed on the label for the rear tires on certain 2005 E-450 cut-away incomplete trucks.

- Service Program - Ford will mail supplementary tire labels containing correct rear tire inflation information to the affected owners and dealers to have the label installed. If the cut-away vehicle has been completed, the rear tires will also be replaced.

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

Sincerely,

J. A. Nuri

James P. Vondale

ATTACHMENT

49 CFR Part 573 - NON-COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT
04C10 - 2005 Model Year Ford E-450 Cut-Away Trucks

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 potential noncompliance to the requirements of Section S5.3.1 of FMVSS 120 on 2005 model year E-450 cut-away incomplete and completed trucks.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Certain 2005 model year E-450 cut-away incomplete trucks built from October 26, 2004 through December 2, 2004 at the Lorain Assembly Plant are potentially affected.

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 2,902 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

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

All vehicles.

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of Non-Compliance

FMVSS 120 Section S5.3.1 requires the label to indicate the tire size and recommended cold inflation pressure such that the sum of the load ratings of the tires on each axle is appropriate for the GAWR on the label. The tire pressure is incorrectly listed on the label for the rear tires on certain 2005 model year E-450 cut-away incomplete trucks.

As of December 15, 2004 there are no known reports of accidents or injuries attributed to this condition.

573.6 (c) (7) -- Basis of Non-Compliance Determination

On November 24, 2004, during a pre-production audit of 2005 1/2 model year E-450 cut-away vehicle tire inflation data, it was determined that the tire pressure in the data base was incorrect. As a precaution, a ship hold was initiated for 2005 model year E-450 cut-away trucks and inspection of the 2005 model year tire inflation data was conducted. That inspection found the 2005 model year tire inflation data was correct at Job #1. An investigation was undertaken, including inspection of labels on 2005 model year vehicles and review of production records. It was determined that the tire inflation data had been incorrectly changed for the E-450 cut-away incomplete trucks starting October 26, 2004.

573.6 (c) (8) Service Program

Ford will mail supplementary tire labels containing correct rear tire inflation information to the affected owners and dealers to have the label installed. If the cut-away vehicle has been completed, the rear tires will also be replaced.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin January 10, 2005 and be completed by January 14, 2005. Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a compliance 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 04C10 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 24, 2005.