

Ford Motor Company

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



04V-604
(3 pages)

December 20, 2004

Mr. 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. 04S26 – 2005 Model Year Ford GT Upper and Lower Control Arm Replacement

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford Motor Company (Ford) is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving 2005 model year Ford GT vehicles manufactured from February 20, 2004 through December 9, 2004, to replace the front and rear upper and lower control arms.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 283 vehicles, of which, 101 are in the possession of retail customers in the United States.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – The upper and lower control arms may have casting imperfections at the bushing end of each arm that may result in the arm fracturing. Under certain circumstances the fracture may affect vehicle handling characteristics. There are no reports of fracture of the arm on vehicles in service, and accordingly, there are no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.
- Service Procedure – Ford will replace the front and rear upper and lower control arms at no cost to customers.

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

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
2004 DEC 22 P 4:53
11-2105



49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
04S26 – ALL 2005 MODEL YEAR FORD GT 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 2005 model year Ford GT vehicles built at the Wixom Assembly Plant from February 20, 2004 through December 9, 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 283 vehicles, of which, 101 are in the possession of retail customers in the United States.

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

Any of the subject vehicles may experience the condition.

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

The upper and lower control arms may have casting imperfections at the end of each arm that may result in the arm fracturing. Under certain circumstances the fracture may affect vehicle handling characteristics. There are no reports of fracture of the arm on vehicles in service, and accordingly, there are no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On December 8, 2004, a crack was found in a lower control arm on a 2005 model year Ford GT that was undergoing a pre-delivery inspection. Ford engineering issued a Stop Build/Ship notice to the Wixom Assembly Plant on December 10, 2004. On December 13, 2004, Ford's Field Review Committee approved field action 04S26. Ford issued a Stop Drive/Sale notice to dealers on December 15, 2004.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Beginning December 15, 2004, Ford began contacting retail customers by phone to advise them of this condition and request that they not operate their vehicles until this service action has been performed. Dealers will be instructed to replace the front and rear upper and lower control arms and fasteners. There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin on January 15, 2005 and be completed on or before January 15, 2005. 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 04S26 to this action.