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December 20, 2004

TO: All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

SUBJECT: Compliance Recall 04C09:
All 2004 and Certain 2005 Model Year Escape Vehicles
Liftgate Latch Release Rod and Handle Assembly Return Spring Replacement

NOTE: Dealers may demonstrate and deliver the affected vehicles.

AFFECTED VEHICLES

Build Plant	Model Year	Build Date Range
Kansas City	2004	April 28, 2003 through December 19, 2003
	2005	July 18, 2003 through July 30, 2004
Ohio	2004	May 1, 2003 through January 24, 2004
	2005	September 16, 2003 through July 30, 2004

Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS. FSA VIN listings for unsold vehicles will be available mid-January 2005 when the full dealer bulletin will be provided.

REASON FOR THIS COMPLIANCE RECALL

On affected vehicles, the liftgate latching system does not fulfill the FMVSS 206 Inertia Load requirement. If the liftgate is left unlocked, there is the potential that it may open during a severe collision.

SERVICE ACTION

Affected vehicles do not comply with FMVSS 206, however; dealers may demonstrate and deliver the affected vehicles. A complete Dealer Bulletin will be provided to dealers the week of January 17, 2005 when it is anticipated that service parts and repair instructions will be available to support this compliance recall.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

Owners of record will be notified via first-class mail after repair instructions have been provided to dealers and parts are available.

OASIS

Consult OASIS for affected vehicles. FSA VIN listings for unsold vehicles will be available mid-January 2005.

CLAIM HANDLING PROCEDURE FOR RETURNING PRIOR LEVEL PARTS

Immediate Purge Required:

- 4L8Z- 7843150-DB LATCH ASY – TAILGATE (LIFTGATE)

- 3L8Z-7843400-FAA HANDLE

Prepare and submit a PCS claim as described below:

- DO NOT ship the parts until return authorization is granted.
- The return authorizations will include shipping addresses.

PCS CLAIM INSTRUCTIONS

When you create your PCS claim, use the following information for the REASON CODE, SHIPPER NBR, and LINE EXPLANATION fields:

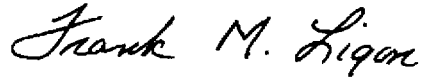
- REASON CODE: GB
- SHIPPER NBR: 04C09
- LINE EXPLANATION: Purge Required

When preparing your PCS claim, list the part number being returned on the claim, and indicate the quantity of that part number being returned. Your PCS claim must be submitted by January 31, 2005. Claims filed after this date will be denied.

QUESTIONS?

Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only) Questions:.....1-800-325-5621

Sincerely,



Frank M. Ligon