



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 17 2005

JAMES VONDALE  
FORD MOTOR COMPANY  
330 TOWN CENTER DRIVE SUITE 400  
DEARBORN MI 48126-2738

NVS-215  
05V-086

Subject: BRAKE LINE

Dear MR. VONDALE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
FORD/CROWN VICTORIA/1997  
MERCURY/MARQUIS/1997

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-086

**Recall Date:** February 28, 2005

**Components:**  
SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC:FOUNDATION COMPONENTS:HOSES, LINES/PIPING,  
AND FITTINGS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 43626

**Summary:**  
ON CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES BUILT WITH ELECTRONIC TRACTION CONTROL, BRAKE LINE ABRASION COULD OCCUR DUE TO CONTACT BETWEEN A REAR BRAKE LINE, A MASTIC PAD, AND A FLOOR PAN STIFFENING RIB.

**Consequence:**  
THE REAR BRAKE LINE MAY CHAFE AND A BRAKE FLUID LEAK MAY DEVELOP. THE BRAKE PEDAL MAY HAVE A 'SPONGY' FEEL AND DROPS OF BRAKE FLUID MAY BE OBSERVED BENEATH THE VEHICLE. OVER TIME BRAKE PERFORMANCE MAY BE COMPROMISED AND STOPPING DISTANCES COULD BE EXTENDED.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE SUBJECT VEHICLES FOR CONTACT BETWEEN THE BRAKE TUBE AND FLOOR PAN STIFFENING RIB. IF CONTACT IS EVIDENT, BUT NO ABRASION OR LEAKS EXIST, THE BRAKE TUBE WILL BE REPOSITIONED TO PRECLUDE FURTHER CONTACT AND POTENTIAL ABRASION. IF INDICATION OF ABRASION OR A LEAK IS EVIDENT, DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE BRAKE LINE. THIS CAMPAIGN IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON MAY 2, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FORD AT 1-800-392-3673.

**Notes:**

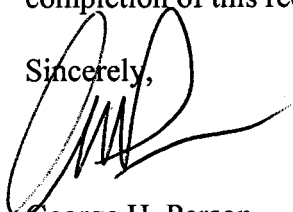
FORD CAMPAIGN NO. 04B26. THIS ACTION IS DEEMED A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN AND IS NOT BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE SAFETY ACT. THE COMPANY HAS INFORMED NHTSA THAT IT WILL PROVIDE THE MODIFICATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE FREE OF CHARGE.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this campaign, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during May 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 2005.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division