



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

April 12, 2005

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

NVS-215
05V-135

Subject: STEERING GEAR

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/F-450/2005
FORD/F-550/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-135

Recall Date: April 1, 2005

Components:

STEERING:GEAR BOX:SHAFT PITMAN

Potential Number of Units Affected: 481

Summary:

ON CERTAIN CHASSIS CAB TRUCKS, THE STEERING GEAR MAY HAVE SOME GEARS WITH A GEAR PISTON THAT WAS ASSEMBLED WITH AN INCORRECT RE-CIRCULATING BALL TUBE RETAINER. AN INCORRECT RETAINER MAY RESULT IN AN IMPROPERLY RETAINED RE-CIRCULATING BALL TUBE, WHICH MAY NOT KEEP THE RE-CIRCULATING BALLS IN PLACE DURING STEERING GEAR ACTUATION.

Consequence:

IF THE RE-CIRCULATING BALLS BECOME DISLODGED A VEHICLE OPERATOR MAY NOTICE NOISE AND INCREASED STEERING EFFORTS THAT MAY EVENTUALLY PROGRESS TO IMPAIRED STEERING OR POTENTIAL LOSS OF STEERING WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE STEERING GEAR FOR A SPECIFIC DATE CODE AND REPLACE IF NECESSARY. THE RECALL BEGAN ON APRIL 4, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT AT 1-800-392-3673.

Notes:

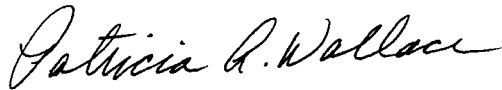
FORD RECALL NO. 05S30. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, 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, the recall began on April 4, 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 or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division