

Ford Motor Company

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

05V-017
(3 pages)

January 27, 2005

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590


Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S28 – Certain 2000 Model Year Ford F-150, Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator Vehicles and Certain 2001 Model Year F-150 Supercrew Vehicles – Speed Control Deactivation Switch

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2000 model year Ford F-150, Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles equipped with speed control and certain 2001 model year F-150 Supercrew vehicles built through August 7, 2000. Through our ongoing investigation in response to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) information request on the subject vehicles, we have identified an increasing number of reports on 2000 model year F-150s and Expeditions that allege fires related to the speed control deactivation switch performance. As a result, we feel it is in the best interest of customer safety that we take this action.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 738,490 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – The speed control deactivation switch may, under certain conditions, overheat, smoke, or burn.
- Service Procedure – Initially, as an interim repair, owners will be instructed to return their vehicles to their dealers to have the speed control deactivation switch disconnected. As soon as replacement parts are available (expected early April, 2005) owners will be instructed to return to the dealers for installation of a new switch.

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

Fairlane Plaza South
330 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2738 USA



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
05S28 -- CERTAIN 2000 MODEL YEAR FORD F-150, FORD EXPEDITION AND LINCOLN
NAVIGATOR VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH SPEED CONTROL AND CERTAIN 2001 MODEL
YEAR F-150 SUPERCREW VEHICLES BUILT THROUGH AUGUST 7, 2000

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 2000 model year Ford F-150, Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles equipped with speed control and certain 2001 model year F-150 Supercrew vehicles equipped with speed control and built through August 7, 2000 (due to the same build date as the 2000 models at that plant).

Assembly Plant	Year and Model	Build Dates
Cuautitlan Assembly Plant	2000 F-150	Built from February 3, 2000 through August 26, 2000
Kansas City Assembly Plant	2000 F-150	Built from April 27, 1999 through August 7, 2000
Norfolk Assembly Plant	2000 F-150	Built from April 20, 1999 through August 5, 2000
Ontario Assembly Plant	2000 F-150	Built from May 3, 1999 through October 17, 2000
Kansas City Assembly Plant	2001 F-150 Supercrew	Built from September 11, 1999 through August 7, 2000
Michigan Truck Plant	2000 Expedition 2000 Navigator	Built from March 30, 1999 through August 7, 2000

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 738,490 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

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

Unknown.

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

The speed control deactivation switch may, under certain conditions, overheat, smoke, or burn. Ford has identified 63 incidents that appear to allege fire related to the speed control deactivation switch, including one alleged injury.

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events

In September, 2004 Ford began investigating reports of underhood fires in the affected vehicles as a result of an increasing number of reports. Investigation of the reported underhood fires is complex because fires can occur for a variety of reasons, including improper vehicle modification (such as aftermarket accessories), arson, prior accident damage, lack of maintenance, or a faulty repair, and often evidence as to the cause and origin of the fire is lost as a result of damage from the fire, or efforts to extinguish it. In December 2004, NHTSA opened an investigation of fires involving the speed control deactivation switch on these vehicles. Based upon a review of available information and data, we have identified an increasing number of reports of fires on 2000 model year F-150s and Expeditions that are alleged to relate to the speed control deactivation switch. As a result, we feel it is in the best interest of customer safety that we take this action.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Initially, as an interim repair, owners will be instructed to return their vehicles to their dealers to have the speed control deactivation switch disconnected. As soon as replacement parts are available (expected early April, 2005) owners will be instructed to return to the dealers for installation of a new switch.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will occur during the first week of February. Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall was provided to the agency on February 28, 2003.

573.6 (c) (9) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford plans 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 05S28 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 May 31, 2005.