

*Ford Motor Company*

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2005 MAR 18 P 2:19

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

OFFICE OF DEFECT  
REGISTRATION

05V-113

March 16, 2005

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

(6 pages)

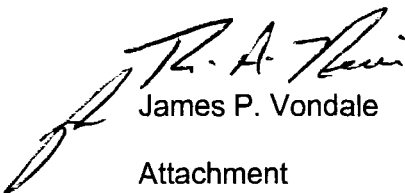
Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S29-- Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles - Fuel Tank.

Summary

- Ford Action -- Ford Motor Company (Ford) is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving 56 2005 model year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles to replace fuel tank assemblies.
- Number of Vehicles Involved -- There are 56 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation -- The fuel tank supplier produced 34 fuel tanks that may have a localized thin wall section in the bottom half of the fuel tank. A fuel tank with a thin wall may crack resulting in a fuel odor, MIL light illumination, and/or a fuel leak. The fuel tank supplier notified Ford of the condition. Ford has not identified any reports related to this condition.
- Service Procedure -- Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the fuel tank replaced.

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



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT  
05S29 - 2005 MODEL YEAR FORD THUNDERBIRD AND LINCOLN LS VEHICLES

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) 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 56 2005 model year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles built at the Wixom Assembly Plant from February 23, 2005, through February 28, 2005, as identified by specific Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs).

Although Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order, and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information, in this instance Ford is able to provide the specific VIN list - see Attachment II.

573.6 (c) (3) -- Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

There are 56 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 fuel tank supplier produced 34 fuel tanks that may have a localized thin wall section in the bottom half of the fuel tank. A fuel tank with a thin wall may crack resulting in a fuel odor, MIL light illumination, and/or a fuel leak. The fuel tank supplier notified Ford of the condition. Ford has not identified any reports related to this condition.

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

On February 24, 2005, the supplier of the fuel tanks used on the affected vehicles notified Ford that certain fuel tanks produced on February 22, 2005, and February 23, 2005, may have localized thin wall sections in the bottom half of the fuel tank. On February 25, 2005, Wixom Assembly Plant issued a Stop Ship order and quarantined all subject vehicles at that facility that were built with fuel tanks produced on the dates referenced above. An analysis of production records at the fuel tank supplier determined that following a shutdown for tool maintenance certain parts of the fuel tank mold were not properly aligned resulting in the plastic being stretched too thin in one area on the bottom half of the fuel tank. The supplier and Ford engineering conducted various fuel tank tests to assess performance during the week of March 1, 2005. A search of field data did not locate any reports related to this issue.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Dealers will be instructed to replace fuel tanks on the affected vehicles. There will be no charge to owners for this service. Owner notification letters will be mailed on March 31, 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 05S29 to this action.

No.	VIN
1	1LNHM87A65Y646717
2	1LNHM86S45Y645060
3	1LNHM87A35Y645072
4	1LNHM87A85Y645004
5	1LNHM87A75Y645057
6	1FAHP60A75Y105949
7	1FAHP60A25Y105910
8	1LNHM86SX5Y644866
9	1LNHM86S15Y644870
10	1LNHM86S45Y644880
11	1LNHM86S75Y644873
12	1LNHM86S85Y644879
13	1FAHP60A55Y105903
14	1FAHP60A45Y105911
15	1LNHM87A85Y645181
16	1FAHP60A95Y106004
17	1LNHM86S55Y645102
18	1LNHM86S45Y646693
19	1FAHP60A05Y105999
20	1FAHP60A15Y105896
21	1FAHP60A05Y106005
22	1LNHM87A25Y646732
23	1FAHP60A45Y106007
24	1LNHM86S15Y644979
25	1FAHP60A35Y106001
26	1LNHM87A25Y645094
27	1LNHM87A95Y645092
28	1LNHM87A45Y645159
29	1LNHM87A05Y646714
30	1LNHM87A75Y646628
31	1LNHM86S55Y646623
32	1LNHM87A15Y645023
33	1LNHM87A95Y646646
34	1LNHM87AX5Y645067
35	1LNHM87A95Y645142
36	1LNHM87A45Y645176
37	1LNHM87A85Y645052
38	1FAHP60A75Y106003
39	1LNHM87AX5Y645084
40	1LNHM87A65Y645079
41	1FAHP60A55Y106002
42	1LNHM87A45Y646621
43	1LNHM87A55Y645056
44	1LNHM87A85Y645049
45	1FAHP60AX5Y105833
46	1FAHP60A65Y105831
47	1FAHP60A85Y105829
48	1LNHM87A65Y646653
49	1LNHM87AX5Y644940
50	1LNHM87A75Y644927
51	1LNHM87A95Y644914
52	1LNHM87A65Y646698
53	1FAHP60A25Y106006
54	1FAHP60A15Y106000
55	1LNHM87AX5Y646705
56	1LNHM86SX5Y645001



05 V-113  
(7 pages)

Frank M. Ligon  
Ford Motor Company  
P. O. Box 1904  
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

March 2005

**Safety Recall 05S29**

Mr. John Sample  
123 Main Street  
Anywhere, USA 12345

Your Vehicle Identification Number: 12345678901234567

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Ford Motor Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2005 Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles.

We apologize for this situation and want to assure you that, with your assistance, we will correct this condition. Our commitment, together with Ford and Lincoln Mercury dealers, is to provide you with the highest level of service and support.

**What is the issue?** On your vehicle, the fuel tank may have a localized thin wall section in the lower half of the tank. As a result, the fuel tank may crack creating a potential for a fuel leak and fuel odor. In addition, the "Service Engine Soon" indicator may illuminate. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

**What will Ford and your dealer do?** Ford Motor Company and your dealer will inspect, and if needed, replace the fuel tank on your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). We urge you to return to your dealer for this service.

**How long will it take?** The time needed for this repair is less than one-half day. However, due to service scheduling requirements, your dealer may need your vehicle for a longer period of time. In addition, your vehicle will require inspection prior to determining if parts need to be ordered.

**What are we asking you to do?** Please call your dealer without delay and request a service date for Recall 05S29. Provide the dealer with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of your vehicle. The VIN is printed near your name at the beginning of this letter.

If you do not already have a servicing dealer, you can access <http://www.genuinefilmservice.com> for dealer addresses, maps, and driving instructions.

**Please note: Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.**

**Do you need a rental vehicle?**

If it is determined that replacement of the fuel tank in your vehicle is necessary, your dealer is authorized to provide a rental at no charge (except for fuel and insurance) while your vehicle is at the dealership for repairs.

**Have you changed your address or sold the vehicle?**

If you have, please fill out the enclosed prepaid postcard and mail it to us so we can update our records. If you have sold the vehicle, the information you provide on the postcard will be used to notify the new owner about this recall.

**Can we assist you further?**

If you have difficulty getting your vehicle repaired promptly and without charge, please contact your dealership's Service Manager for assistance. If you still have concerns, please contact the Ford Motor Company or Lincoln Customer Relationship Center and one of our representatives will be happy to assist you.

Ford Call 1-800-392-3673

Lincoln Call 1-800-521-4140

For the hearing impaired call 1-800-232-5952 (TDD).

Office Hours: (Eastern Time Zone)

Monday – Friday: 8AM – 8PM

Saturday: 9AM – 5:30PM

If you wish to contact us through the Internet, our address is:

**[www.ownerconnection.com](http://www.ownerconnection.com)**

If you are still having difficulty getting your vehicle repaired in a reasonable time or without charge, you may write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street S. W., Washington, D. C. 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 or 1-800-424-9393.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Frank M. Ligon  
Director  
Service Engineering Operations