

*Ford Motor Company*

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

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

May 3, 2005

05V-202  
(6Pages)

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

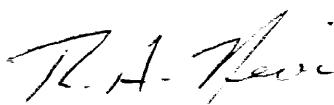
Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S31-- Certain 2005 Model Year Ford F-650 and F-750 Chassis Cab Vehicles with aluminum wheels.

Summary

- Ford Action -- Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2005 model year F-650 and F-750 chassis cab vehicles to inspect the aluminum 22.5 x 8.25 wheels and, if necessary, replace wheels.
- Number of Vehicles Involved -- Approximately 25 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation -- The supplier of the aluminum 22.5 x 8.25 wheel may have produced some wheels that were not properly pre-stressed on the disk face during the manufacturing process. A wheel that has not been properly pre-stressed may develop cracks that, if allowed to propagate, over time may result in wheel separation. Ford is not aware of any field reports for this condition.
- Service Procedure -- Owners will be notified by Ford and instructed to contact a Ford dealer to arrange for their vehicles to have the wheels inspected for a manufacturing date and, if necessary, 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  
05S31 -- 2005 MODEL YEAR FORD F-650 AND F-750 CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES

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 2005 model year F-650 and F-750 chassis cab vehicles built at the Escobedo Assembly Plant (EAP) from February 21, 2005 through March 18, 2005.

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 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 25 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 supplier of the aluminum 22.5 x 8.25 wheel may have produced some wheels that were not properly pre-stressed on the disk face during the manufacturing process. A wheel that has not been properly pre-stressed may develop cracks that, if allowed to propagate, over time may result in wheel separation. Ford is not aware of any field reports for this condition.

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

On March 11, 2005 Accuride notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of a safety defect in certain Accuride aluminum 22.5 x 8.25 wheels. Accuride notified International, the assembler of Ford F-650 and F-750 trucks, on March 24, 2005, as to the safety defect in the aluminum 22.5 x 8.25 wheels. On March 28, 2005, International began vehicle audits at their EAP facility and parts audits at the offsite tire/wheel assembly supplier. Ford Engineering was informed by International on April 7, 2005, that some 2005 model year Ford F-650 and F-750 trucks may have been built with these Accuride aluminum wheels and may develop cracks that could result in wheel separation. On April 14, 2005 International confirmed that 25 F-650 and F-750 trucks may have been shipped with suspect wheels.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Owners will be notified by Ford and instructed to contact a Ford dealer to arrange for their vehicles to have the wheels inspected for a manufacturing date and, if necessary, replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin May 10, 2005 and be completed on May 10, 2005.

In accordance with Part 573.13 (d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this problem because Ford's original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers.

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 05S31 to this action.



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

May 2005

**Safety Recall 05S31**

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 model year F-650 and F-750 Trucks with aluminum wheels.

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

**What is the issue?**

On your vehicle, it may be possible that the two in-board wheels on the rear axle were not properly machined before being installed. Wheels that have not been properly machined may experience premature cracking on the wheel disc mounting face and may result in wheel separation. A wheel separation of the rear inboard wheel may affect the braking, steering and handling of the truck.

**What will Ford and your dealer do?**

Ford Motor Company and your dealer will inspect the two in-board wheels on the rear axle and, if necessary, replace the wheels and remount the tires 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 05S31. 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.

Fleet Owners: To locate a dealer, call 1-800-34FLEET. Representatives are available 8:30AM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday (Eastern Time Zone).

Motorhome Owners: To locate a dealer that services Motorhomes, call the Motorhome Customer Assistance Center toll free at 1-800-444-3311. Ford representatives are available 24 hours a day.

All Other Owners: 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.**

**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.

Fleet Owners: If you still have concerns, please contact the Fleet Customer Information Center at 1-800-34-FLEET and one of our representatives will be happy to assist you. Representatives are available 8:30AM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday (Eastern Time Zone). Or you may contact us through the internet at [www.fleet.ford.com](http://www.fleet.ford.com).

Motorhome Owners: If you still have concerns, please contact the Motorhome Customer Assistance Center toll free at 1-800-444-3311. Ford representatives are available 24 hours a day

All Other Owners: If you still have concerns, please contact the Ford Motor Company Customer Relationship Center and one of our representatives will be happy to assist you.

Call 1-800-392-3673. 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