

Ford Motor Company

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Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
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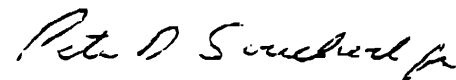
Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S35-- Certain 2006 Model Year Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles for inspection of tire tread damage.

Summary

- **Ford Action** -- Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2006 model year Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles to inspect the tires for damage to the center tread and, if necessary, replace the tires.
- **Number of Vehicles Involved** -- Approximately 10,061 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- **Effect on Vehicle Operation** -- Damage to the center tread was observed during a vehicle evaluation at the assembly plant. Ford is not aware of any customer reports on vehicles in service that may be related to this issue. The potential damage varies greatly in size and many tires on the involved vehicles will have no damage. Ford's investigation has not identified any short-term risk of tire failure or any vehicle handling concerns associated with the tread damage. However, on some tires, the damage may be sufficient to allow belt corrosion, which over time could ultimately lead to a tread separation. To eliminate any potential safety concern late in the useful life of the tire, Ford has decided to conduct this action.
- **Service Procedure** -- Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have all four of the vehicle tires inspected (to ensure inspection of LHS tires that may have been rotated to the other side of the vehicle) for tire tread damage and if necessary replace the damaged tire.

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

05V-310
(3 pages)

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
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49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
05S35 – 2006 MODEL YEAR FORD EXPEDITION AND LINCOLN NAVIGATOR VEHICLES
TIRE TREAD INSPECTION

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 2006 model year Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles built at the Michigan Truck Plant (MTP) from May 2, 2005 through May 23, 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 10,061 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 left hand side (LHS) tires on the affected vehicles may have damage at the center tread. The tread damage was caused by a section of steel fingerplate on a conveyor that had become sharp over time due to wear. The sharpened steel fingerplate could cause a scalloped cut into the tread that varied in depth, width, and length. The potential damage varies greatly in size and most tires will have no damage. Ford's investigation has not identified any short-term risk of tire failure or any vehicle handling concerns associated with the tread damage. However, on some tires, the damage may be sufficient to allow belt corrosion, which over time could ultimately lead to a tread separation. To eliminate any potential safety concern late in the useful life of the tire, Ford has decided to conduct this action. Ford is not aware of any customer reports that may be related to this condition.

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

On May 23, 2005 a vehicle at MTP was discovered with tread damage to a left hand side tire during a vehicle evaluation. A stop ship order was issued by MTP and analysis was conducted to identify the cause of the damage. MTP determined that the cause of the tire damage was a center fingerplate on the conveyor line in the water test area. On June 9, 2005 Ford's Critical Concern Review Group was notified. Ford conducted the following actions: a search for field reports, vehicle field inspections and an engineering assessment as to the effects on vehicle operation. Based on the field inspections and internal plant audits on June 16, 2005, MTP confirmed that this condition had started with Job #1 for the 2006 model year, May 2, 2005.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have all four of the vehicle tires inspected (to ensure inspection of LHS tires that may have been rotated to the other side of the vehicle) for tire tread damage and if necessary replace the damaged tire. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will begin July 15, 2005 and be completed on July 15, 2005. 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, 2005.

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 05S35 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 July 26, 2005.