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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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Environmental & Safety Engineering

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


Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S40 – Certain 2006 Model Year E-Series, Expedition, Navigator, Explorer, Mountaineer, F-150, Mark LT, Escape, Mariner, Ranger, and Taurus vehicles to inspect the windshield wiper motor for presence of grease.

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2006 model year E-Series, Expedition, Navigator, Explorer, Mountaineer, F-150, Mark LT, Escape, Mariner, Ranger, and Taurus vehicles to inspect the windshield wiper motor for the presence of grease on the output shaft gear.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – See Attachment II for the approximate number of vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Windshield wiper motors may have been produced without grease applied to the output shaft gear. After a period of continuous use on the high-speed setting, lack of grease on the output shaft gear may cause the gear teeth to distort and/or fracture during operation resulting in the loss of wiper function. Ford has not identified any reports for this condition on vehicles in customer service as of October 28, 2005.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the windshield wiper motor inspected for specific production dates and assembly line code. Motors within the specific production dates and assembly line criteria will be inspected and have grease applied if necessary.

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
05S40 -- 2006 MODEL YEAR E-SERIES, EXPEDITION, NAVIGATOR, EXPLORER,
MOUNTAINEER, F-150, MARK LT, ESCAPE, MARINER, RANGER
AND TAURUS -- WIPER MOTOR GREASE

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 certain 2006 model year E-Series, Expedition, Navigator, Explorer, Mountaineer, F-150, Mark LT, Escape, Mariner, Ranger, and Taurus vehicles. For production dates see Attachment II.

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

See Attachment II for the approximate number of vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

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

Approximately 13%.

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

Windshield wiper motors may have been produced without grease applied to the output shaft gear. After a period of continuous use on the high-speed setting, lack of grease on the output shaft gear may cause the gear teeth to distort and/or fracture during operation resulting in the loss of wiper function. Ford has not identified any field reports for this condition as of October 28, 2005.

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

On October 7, 2005 the Norfolk Assembly Plant (NAP) reported that a F-150 internal evaluation vehicle experienced a loss of windshield wiper function. The wiper motor was returned to the supplier for evaluation on October 11, 2005 and it was determined that the motor had a stripped output shaft gear due to a lack of grease. On October 17, 2005 the Dearborn Assembly Plant (DTP) reported that a F-150 internal evaluation vehicle experienced a loss of windshield wiper function. A review by the on-site supplier resident determined that the motor had a stripped output shaft gear and no grease on the gear. Analysis of production data determined this motor is used on other Ford vehicles. On October 18, 2005 a stop ship was issued for all assembly plants that use this motor in the vehicle windshield wiper assembly. On October 20, 2005 Ford's

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events (cont'd)

Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) was notified. An investigation was undertaken, including supplier and assembly plant production data. It was determined that the lack of grease was due to contaminants blocking the grease application nozzle in the supplier's wiper motor assembly process. Inspection found that a torn filter in the grease application equipment allowed contaminants to reach the nozzle. That filter had been installed during equipment maintenance on August 26, 2005. Although Ford cannot determine when the tear occurred in the filter the supplier determined that wiper motor production with the suspect filter started on August 28, 2005. Potentially affected wiper motors were assembled into Ford vehicles starting on August 29, 2005 (for a complete list see Attachment II).

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the windshield wiper motor inspected for specific production dates and assembly line code. Motors within the specific production dates and assembly line criteria will be inspected and have grease applied if necessary. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will begin November 21, 2005 and be completed on November 21, 2005. Notification to Dealers will begin on November 9, 2005 and be completed on November 9, 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 05S40 to this action.

Attachment II
Production volumes
05S40

Vehicle Line	Model Year	Assembly Plant	Dates of Production	US and Federated Territory Volume
E-Series	2006	Lorain	8/29/05 thru 10/17/05	31,287
Expedition/Navigator	2006	Michigan Truck	9/12/05 thru 10/17/05	9,522
Explorer/Mountaineer	2006	Louisville	9/9/05 thru 10/17/05	25,422
Explorer/Mountaineer	2006	ST. Louis	9/2/05 thru 10/17/05	7,258
F-150/Mark LT	2006	Dearborn Truck	9/12/05 thru 10/17/05	19,503
F-150	2006	Kansas City	9/6/05 thru 10/17/05	26,468
F-150	2006	Norfolk	9/6/05 thru 10/17/05	27,112
Escape/Mariner	2006	Kansas City	8/29/05 thru 10/17/05	27,950
Ranger	2006	Twin Cities	8/29/05 thru 10/17/05	15,685
Taurus	2006	Atlanta	9/12/05 thru 10/17/05	12,735