

Ford Motor Company

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

April 15, 2005

Mr. George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

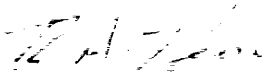
Dear Mr. Person:

Subject: Safety Recall 05V-113
(Ford Number 05S29)

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations -- Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company is submitting a true or representative copy of information that relates directly to the subject campaign.

Attached are dealer and owner letters issued by Ford Customer Service Division regarding a recall of certain 2005 model year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles. Specific details were submitted to you in a letter dated March 16, 2005. Owner notification letters were mailed on April 4, 2005.

Sincerely,



J. P. Vondale

Attachment(s)
05S29 Dealer-Owner Bulletin





Frank M. Ligon
Director
Service Engineering Operations
Ford Customer Service Division

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

March 10, 2005

TO: All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles
Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

AFFECTED VEHICLES

A small number of 2005 Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles built from February 23, 2005 through February 28, 2005. The 56 affected vehicles are identified in OASIS. In addition, for a list of vehicles assigned to your dealership, visit <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com>.

REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL

Some of the affected vehicles may have been produced with fuel tanks that have localized wall thinning in the bottom half of the fuel tank. If the fuel tank wall is thin enough, it may crack during normal operation resulting in a fuel odor, MIL light illumination, or a fuel leak. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

SERVICE ACTION

DO NOT DEMONSTRATE OR DELIVER any of the affected vehicles involved in this safety recall. A complete Dealer Bulletin will be provided to dealers the week of March 14, 2005, when it is anticipated that parts ordering information and repair instructions will be available to support this safety recall.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

Owners of record will be notified via first-class mail after repair instructions and parts ordering information have been provided to dealers.

OASIS

Consult OASIS for affected vehicles. FSA VIN listings for unsold vehicles will be available March 10, 2005.

PLEASE NOTE:

Federal law requires dealers to complete any outstanding safety recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory prior to delivery

QUESTIONS?

Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only) Questions:.....1-800-325-5621

Sincerely,

Frank M. Ligon



Frank M. Ligon
Director
Service Engineering Operations
Ford Customer Service Division

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

March 23, 2005

TO: All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

SUBJECT: **DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29**
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles
Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

REF: **DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29** dated March 10, 2005
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles
Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

AFFECTED VEHICLES

Certain 2005 Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS vehicles built from February 23, 2005 through February 28, 2005. Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS. In addition, for a list of vehicles assigned to your dealership, visit <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com>. This information was made available on March 10, 2005.

REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL

Some of the affected vehicles may contain a fuel tank with an unacceptably thin wall in an area 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, or a fuel leak. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

SERVICE ACTION

DO NOT DEMONSTRATE OR DELIVER any of the affected vehicles until this safety recall has been completed. At no charge to the vehicle owner, dealers will inspect the build date of the fuel tank and, if necessary, replace the vehicle's fuel tank. This service must be performed on all of the affected vehicles in your new vehicle inventory as well as vehicles that have been delivered to customers.

PLEASE NOTE:

Federal law requires dealers to complete any outstanding safety recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

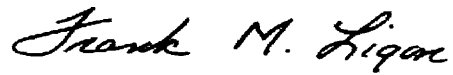
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I: Administrative Information
Attachment II: Labor Allowances and Parts Ordering Information
Attachment III: Technical Information
Customer Notification Letter

QUESTIONS?

Claims Information: 1-800-423-8851
Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only) Questions: 1-800-325-5621

Sincerely,



Frank M. Ligon

DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles
Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

OASIS ACTIVATED? Yes. OASIS was activated on March 10, 2005.

FSA VIN LIST ACTIVATED? Yes

Available through FMCDealer.com or at <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com> (available March 10, 2005). Owner names and addresses were made available on March 23, 2005

NOTE: Your FSA VIN list may contain owner names and addresses obtained from motor vehicle registration records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any purpose other than in connection with this recall is a violation of law in several states, provinces, and countries. Accordingly, you must limit the use of this listing to the follow-up necessary to complete this recall action.

STOCK VEHICLES

Correct all affected units in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

SOLD VEHICLES

- Owners of affected vehicles will be directed to dealers for repairs
- Immediately contact any of your affected owners whose vehicles are not on your VIN lists but are identified in OASIS. Give the owner a copy of the Customer Notification Letter (when available) and schedule a service date.
- Correct other affected vehicles identified in OASIS which are brought to your dealership.

TITLE BRANDED / SALVAGED VEHICLES

Affected title branded and salvaged vehicles are eligible for this Field Service Action.

RELATED DAMAGE

If a related damage condition exists that you believe to be caused by the covered condition, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to the repair of any related damage. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted.

DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles
Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

ADDITIONAL LABOR TIME

If a condition exists that requires additional labor to complete the repair, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to performing any additional labor. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted.

OWNER REFUNDS

Refunds are not authorized for this program.

RENTAL VEHICLES

If inspection determines that replacement of the fuel tank is necessary, Ford Motor Company will pay for a rental vehicle, except for fuel and insurance, which will be at the owner's expense. Follow Extended Service Plan (ESP) guidelines for rental dollar amounts. Enter the word "RENTAL" plus the number of days the vehicle was used in the Miscellaneous Expense area of the recall claim form.

CLAIMS PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

- Enter claims using Direct Warranty Entry (DWE).
- Related damage must be claimed on a repair line that is separate from the repair line on which the FSA is claimed.
- "MT" labor should be submitted on a separate repair line with the related damage flag checked.
- Refer to ACESII manual for claims preparation and submission information.

DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 05S29
 Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln LS Vehicles
 Fuel Tank Inspection and Replacement

LABOR ALLOWANCES

| Description | Labor Operation | Labor Time |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| Inspect Build Date Code on Fuel Tank (Replacement not required) | 05S29A | 0.2 Hour |
| Replace Fuel Tank on LS Vehicle (Includes date code inspection) | 05S29B | 2.8 Hours |
| Replace Fuel Tank on Thunderbird Vehicle (Includes date code inspection) | 05S29C | 2.9 Hours |

PARTS REQUIREMENTS / ORDERING INFORMATION

Parts will not be direct shipped for this recall.

Before April 29, 2005: Dealers will be required to call the Special Service Support Center (1-800-325-5621) to order the 9002 Fuel Tank Assembly. Upon receipt of the call, the Special Service Support Center will also place an order for the 9A068 Insulator Pads.

After and including April 30, 2005: Order your parts requirements through normal order processing channels.

| Part Number | Description | Quantity |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 4W4Z-9002-AA | Fuel Tank Assembly | 1 |
| 2W4Z-9A068-AA | Insulator Pad (Black) | 2 |
| XW4Z-9A068-AA | Insulator Pad (White) | 2 |
| * See Below | Hose Clamps for Evaporative Emissions Lines | Up to 3 clamps, if necessary. |

* For hose clamp material allowance, claim \$1.00 per hose clamp (\$3.00 maximum) under miscellaneous expense code "OTHER".

This program involves less than 60 vehicles. Only order a 9002 Fuel Tank Assembly after fuel tank date code inspection indicates replacement is required. The DOR/COR for this program is 50349. This number identifies parts ordered for this recall through the Special Service Support Center (1-800-325-5621).

DEALER PRICE

For latest prices, refer to DOES II.

PARTS RETENTION AND RETURN

Follow the provisions of the Warranty and Policy Manual for "Parts Retention and Return Procedures."

EXCESS STOCK RETURN

Excess stock returned for credit must have been purchased from Ford Customer Service Division in accordance with Policy Procedure Bulletin 4000.

CERTAIN 2005 MODEL YEAR LS AND THUNDERBIRD MODELS — FUEL TANK DATE CODE INSPECTION AND, IF NECESSARY, REPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW

This program involves inspecting the fuel tank build date code to determine if the fuel tank must be replaced.

INSPECTION

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist.
2. NOTE: The fuel tank build date code is stamped into the rear face of the left side (driver side) of the tank.

NOTE: The build date code is formatted as MONTH DAY YEAR -x. For example, the stamping may read 022205-x which denotes the tank was built on February 22, 2005. See Figures 1 and 2. The last digit of the code (x) may be disregarded.

NOTE: The first two (2) digits of the date code may be hidden beneath the left fuel tank support strap. These hidden numbers represent the month the tank was built. Due to the extremely limited number of vehicles that are being recalled for inspection (approximately 60), not being able to clearly see the first two (2) numbers of the date code is not important. The fuel tanks that are being inspected were built within a two-day span in February 2005, of which approximately half of those may require replacement.

Check the fuel tank build date code.

- If the fuel tank was built on either February 22nd or February 23rd, 2005 (date codes 022205 and 022305), the fuel tank must be replaced. Refer to the appropriate fuel tank replacement procedure in this Attachment III.
- If the fuel tank was built before or after the subject dates, no further service is required.

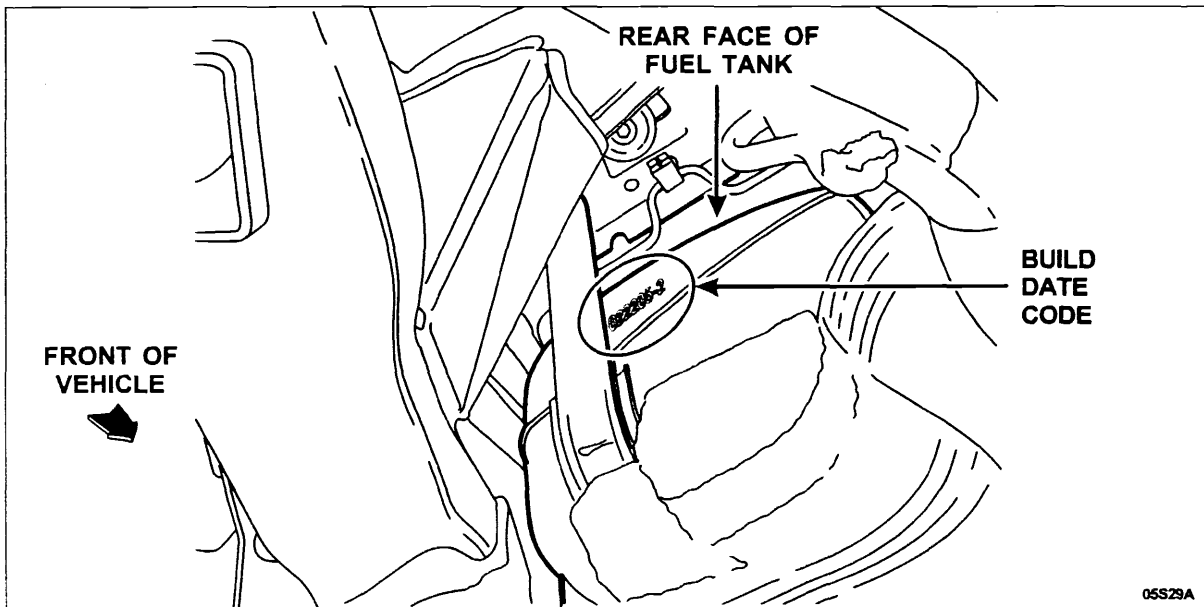


FIGURE 1



022205-2

**BUILD DATE CODE
FUEL TANK SUPPORT STRAP REMOVED FOR CLARITY**

05S29B

FIGURE 2

FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT

Be sure to follow all Workshop Repair Manual Notes, Cautions and Warnings related to fuel system service.

Refer to the 2005 Thunderbird or LS Workshop Repair Manual for Fuel Tank service procedures and review the notes below before proceeding. The procedures that need to be followed include:

- Fuel System Pressure Release (Section 310-00)
- Rear Seat Cushion Removal and Installation, LS only (Section 501-10)
- Fuel Tank Draining (Section 310-00)
- Fuel Tank Removal and Installation (Section 310-01)
- Fuel Pump Module and the Fuel Transfer Pump Removal and Installation (to be done once the tank has been removed from the vehicle) (Section 310-01)

For Thunderbird Only:

NOTE: It is necessary to remove the sill plates in order to remove the rear trim panels as part of the fuel tank draining procedure.

NOTE: It may be necessary to loosen the left side bolts on the underbody cross brace to allow repositioning of the fuel tube shield. After the *new* tank is installed and the fuel tube shield is back in place, tighten the cross brace bolts to 63 Nm (46 lb-ft).



For Both Thunderbird and LS:

NOTE: When lowering the fuel tank during the draining procedure, it may be necessary to physically pull the tank down away from the underbody even after loosening the tank support straps. The NVH pads located at the top of the fuel tank may have adhered to the underbody and may cause the tank to stick in place.

NOTE: The fuel and vapor tube assemblies must be transferred to the replacement fuel tank.

- If necessary, when transferring the vapor tubes to the valves on the fuel tank, use **new** screw-type clamps obtained locally. Proper clamp orientation is necessary to avoid clamp contact with the floor pan. Be sure to orient the clamps on the large diameter hose so the screw is perpendicular to the tank (pointing straight down). Orient the clamps on the smaller hoses so the screws are parallel to the tank. See Figure 3. Tighten the clamps until snug and then an additional two (2) revolutions. Be sure to tighten the clamps properly or evaporative emissions leaks may result, which could lead to setting a DTC and turning on the MIL.

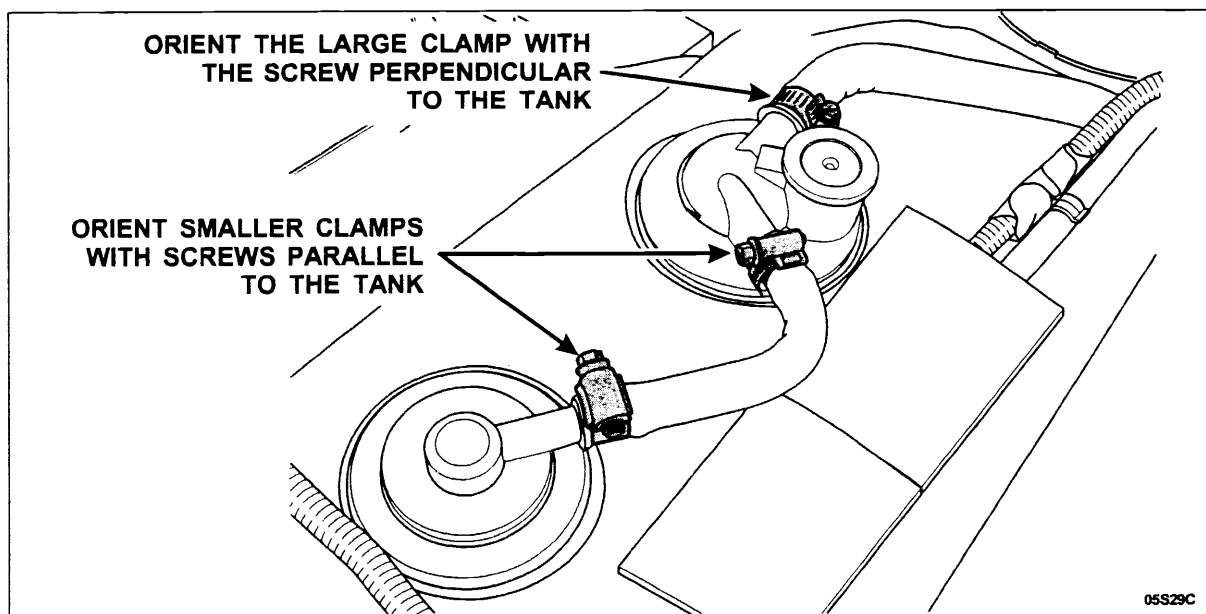


FIGURE 3

- When reinstalling the fuel pump module and fuel transfer pump lock rings, tighten both to 80 Nm (59 lb-ft). Not tightening these to specifications could result in evaporative emissions leaks which could lead to setting a DTC and turning on the MIL.



NOTE: Install two (2) white NVH foam pads (part number XW4Z-9A068-AA) over the evaporative emission tubes to insulate them from contacting the floor pan. Remove the paper backing and secure the **new** foam pads, using the original fuel tank as a guide. See Figure 4.

NOTE: Install two (2) black NVH foam pads (part number 2W4Z-9A068-AA) to each area on the top of the fuel tank. Remove the paper backing and secure the **new** foam pads, using the original fuel tank as a guide. See Figure 4.

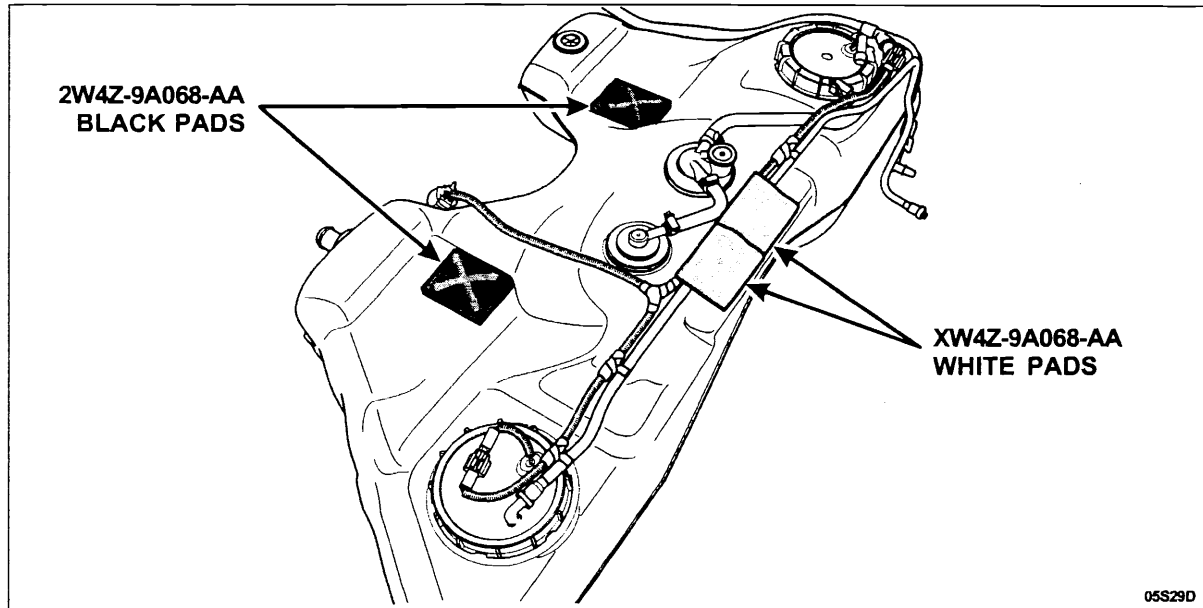


FIGURE 4





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.genuineflmservice.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

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