



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*March 16, 2006*

JAMES VONDALE  
FORD MOTOR COMPANY  
330 TOWN CENTER DRIVE SUITE 400  
DEARBORN MI 48126-2738

NVS-215  
06V-069

Subject: POWER LIFTGATES

Dear MR. VONDALE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

FORD/FREESTAR/2005-2006  
MERCURY/MONTEREY/2005-2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 06V-069

**Mfg's Report Date:** March 6, 2006

**Components:** STRUCTURE:BODY:HATCHBACK/LIFTGATE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 12,728

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN VANS EQUIPPED WITH THE POWER LIFTGATE OPTION THE POWER LIFTGATE MOTOR AUTOMATICALLY DISENGAGES AFTER THE LIFTGATE IS POWERED OPEN.

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF A LIFTGATE STRUT MALFUNCTION, THE LIFTGATE CAN FALL FREELY WITH NO PRIOR WARNING. ANYONE STANDING BENEATH THE LIFTGATE MAY BE INJURED IF THE LIFTGATE FALLS.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL REPROGRAM THE POWER LIFTGATE MODULE TO ELIMINATE THE POTENTIAL FOR THE LIFTGATE TO FALL FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL BEGAN ON MARCH 13, 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FORD AT 1-800-392-3673.

**Notes:**

FORD RECALL NO. 06S42. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

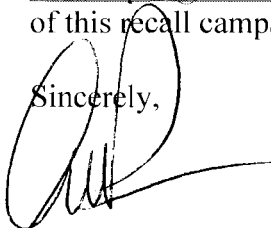
The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification began on March 13, 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before April 30, 2006.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement