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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Fairlane Plaza South
330 Town Center Drive
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April 5, 2006

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

06V-114
(2 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference: Supplement to the Ford Motor Company (Ford) Part 573 Notification Letter dated August 4, 2003, for Recall No. 03S04 - 1998-2001 Model Year Ford Explorer/Mercury Mountaineer 4-door, 1998-2000 Ford Explorer 2-door, and 2001-2002 Model Year Ford Explorer Sport and Sport Trac vehicles equipped with high back seats.

Information in section Part 573.6 (c) (3) of the referenced Ford Part 573 notification letter is being supplemented to add additional vehicles. An additional 8,585 Explorer Sport vehicles in the U.S. and Federalized Territories are being added. On March 17, 2006, Ford received a dealer inquiry pertaining to a vehicle that fits the physical attributes of the vehicles in the original recall, but the VIN was not listed in Ford's dealer posting. An investigation of plant production data records revealed that certain 2001 and 2002 model year Explorer Sport vehicles had an improper production code listed for vehicles equipped with a high back seat and as a result the vehicles were not included in the original recalled population.

Information in 573.6 (c) (8) of the letter is being revised to provide a new mailing date for the owner notification letters for the additional vehicles, and information in 573.13 (c) (2) is being revised to provide a new end date for reimbursement eligibility for the additional vehicles.

Sincerely,

James P. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
03S04 - 1998-2001 MODEL YEAR EXPLORER/MOUNTAINEER 4-DOOR,
1998-2000 EXPLORER 2-DOOR, AND 2001-2002 EXPLORER SPORT AND SPORT TRAC
DRIVER HIGH BACK BUCKET SEAT RECLINER TO SEAT BACK FRAME
ATTACHMENT BOLT

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) submits the following supplementary information concerning a safety recall action that it previously voluntarily initiated.

573.6 (c) (3) -- Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected (supplemented)

An additional 8,585 Explorer Sport vehicles in the U.S. and Federalized Territories are being added. The revised total approximate volume is now 1,561,465 in the United States and Federalized Territories.

573.6 (c) (8) Service Program

Owners of the vehicles added to this action will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the driver side seat upper bolt that attaches the seat recliner mechanism to the seat back frame replaced with a metal spacer and bolt. In addition, seats with tubular back frames will have the fully threaded lower recliner bolt replaced with a partially threaded bolt.

Mailing of owner notification letters for the additional vehicles will begin April 10, 2006, and be completed April 10, 2006. Mailing for the original population occurred in August 2003. 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.

573.13 (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 was September 8, 2003, for owner letters mailed August 29, 2003, and will be April 20, 2006, for owner letters mailed April 10, 2006.