



RECALL
NVS-215

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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April 7, 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-119
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 06C13 - Certain 2006 Model Year Ford Taurus Vehicles Produced with a "Mobile-Ease" Cellular Hands-Free Option.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary compliance recall involving certain 2006 model year Ford Taurus vehicles to replace the optional cellular phone hands-free overlay wire harness.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Nineteen vehicles in the United States.
- Description of Non-Compliance - Ford produced nineteen 2006 model year Taurus vehicles for one specific fleet customer that were modified for optional hands-free cellular phone operating capability. To provide this functionality, a special overlay wire harness was installed on the subject vehicles that inadvertently did not include the circuits for Passenger Airbag Deactivation Indicator (PADI) lamp function. As a result, these vehicles do not comply with FMVSS 208 Sections S19.2.2, S21.2.2, and S23.2.2 - that require that each vehicle have a lamp that illuminates when the passenger side airbag system is deactivated. The vehicles were delivered to 17 dealerships.
- Service Program - Ford has notified dealers to hold the affected vehicles until the wire overlay harness is replaced with one that provides the required functionality.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,

R. A. Vondale

James P. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 - NON-COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT
06C13- 2006 MODEL YEAR FORD TAURUS VEHICLES

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) submits the following information concerning a noncompliance to the requirements of Sections S19.2.2, S21.2.2, and S23.2.2 of FMVSS 208 for certain 2006 model year Ford Taurus vehicles.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Certain Ford Taurus vehicles built from February 13, 2006, through February 15, 2006, at the Atlanta Assembly Plant are potentially affected.

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

Nineteen vehicles in the United States.

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

100%

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of Non-Compliance

Ford produced nineteen 2006 model year Taurus vehicles for a specific fleet customer that were modified for optional hands-free cellular phone operating capability. To provide this functionality, a special overlay wire harness was installed on the subject vehicles that inadvertently did not include the circuits for Passenger Airbag Deactivation Indicator (PADI) lamp function. Consequently, during the key-ON system diagnostic routine, the airbag control strategy detects an open circuit fault condition and the following occurs: 1) the PADI lamp will not illuminate during the key-ON self test and will not illuminate if the passenger airbag is in the deactivated state; and 2) the airbag warning lamp in the instrument cluster flashes a sequence of codes associated with a PADI lamp circuit failure condition and then stays illuminated (indicating service is required). This condition will not affect the passenger airbag performance and it will operate as intended. The vehicles were delivered to 17 dealerships.

As of April 7, 2006, there are no known reports of accidents or injuries attributed to this condition.

573.6 (c) (7) -- Basis of Non-Compliance Determination

On March 24, 2006, a dealership notified Ford that during the key-ON cycle test for lamps and gauges involving two of the subject vehicles the PADI lamp failed to illuminate and the airbag warning lamp in the cluster remained illuminated. A subsequent investigation determined that the design of the new overlay wiring harness was based on an outdated engineering drawing of the

passenger airbag system which did not include the PADI lamp circuits. Consequently, the overlay wiring harness installed in the subject vehicles did not complete the required circuits to provide the designed functionality of the PADI lamp.

573.6 (c) (8) Service Program

Ford has notified dealers to hold the affected vehicles until the wire overlay harness is replaced with one that provides the required functionality.

573.6 (c) (11) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford does not plan to make a public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded when available.

573.6 (c) (12) -- Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 06C13 to this action.

573.13 (c) (2) - Ending Date for Reimbursement Eligibility

No refunds will be offered because any repairs for the condition would have been covered under normal warranty.