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RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION



07V-181
(4 Pages)

James P. Vondale, Director
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April 24, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W. Room 5321
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 07S52 - Certain 2007 Model Year Ford Explorer and Explorer Sport Trac vehicles.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2007 model year Ford Explorer and Explorer Sport Trac vehicles to replace the steering gear to frame attaching bolts and nuts.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - 11 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation - The steering gear attaching bolts may have been over-torqued during assembly, potentially weakening the bolts. If a steering gear attaching bolt fractures, there may be an audible noise at low speed and the steering wheel alignment may be off-center. If both bolts were to ultimately break the vehicle may not respond to steering inputs. Ford is not aware of any reports of this condition on vehicles in service.
- Service Procedure - Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to replace the steering gear to frame attaching bolts and nuts.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. P. Vondale".

James P. Vondale

Attachments



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
07S52 -- 2007 MODEL YEAR FORD EXPLORER AND EXPLORER SPORT TRAC VEHICLES
-- STEERING GEAR ATTACHING BOLTS AND NUTS

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 2007 model year Ford Explorer vehicles built at the Louisville Assembly Plant from January 16, 2007, through March 20, 2007, and Explorer Sport Trac vehicles built at the Louisville Assembly Plant on February 15, 2007.

Although Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order, and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information, in this instance Ford is able to provide the specific VIN list - see Attachment II.

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

Approximately 11 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.

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

Unknown.

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

The steering gear attaching bolts may have been over-torqued during assembly, potentially weakening the bolts. If a steering gear attaching bolt fractures, there may be an audible noise at low speed and the steering wheel alignment may be off center. If both bolts were to ultimately break the vehicle may not respond to steering inputs. Ford is not aware of any reports of this condition on vehicles in service.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On March 19, 2007, the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) had five steering gear attaching bolts break during the assembly process. Engineering and LAP conducted an investigation that included review of the assembly station DC bolt runner torque and process data. The review determined that a revision on January 7, 2007, was made to the process controls of the DC bolt runner that could allow it to cycle twice for the same steering gear. On April 4, 2007, engineering notified the Ford Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG). An analysis of production data determined that eleven U.S. vehicles may have been assembled with steering gear assembly attaching bolts that were over-torqued.

On April 17, 2007, the Field Review Committee (FRC) reviewed the issue and approved a field action.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to replace the steering gear to frame attaching bolts and nuts. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will begin on May 2, 2007, and be completed on May 2, 2007. Notification to Dealers was conducted on April 19, 2007, and was completed on April 19, 2007. A copy of the notification letter to dealers was provided to the agency on April 23, 2007. A copy of the owner letter will be forwarded to the agency when available.

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) (11) - 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.

573.6 (c) (12) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 07S52 to this action.

Attachment II
VIN List
07S52

1FMEU51K97UB15394	1FMEU63E67UB18301	1FMEU64E17UB22433	1FMEU73EX7UB23667
1FMEU63E67UA98812	1FMEU63EX7UB04434	1FMEU64E37UA93307	1FMEU74E27UB00639
1FMEU74E57UA98904	1FMEU74E77UB22958	1FMEU75E27UB00607	