

Ford Motor Company

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



July 9, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Supplement to Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 07S54 dated
June 12, 2007 - Certain 2007 Model Year Lincoln Town Car and 2008
Model Year Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis Vehicles.

Information in section Part 573.6 (c) (2) is being revised to expand production dates for the 2007 model year Lincoln Town Car and 2008 Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis. Additional cracked hub assemblies were identified that were manufactured outside the original production dates provided by the supplier.

The information in Part 573.6 (c) (3) is being revised to provide an updated summary regarding the number of vehicles potentially affected.

The information in Part 573.6 (c) (4) is being revised to update the percentage of affected vehicles with the defect condition.

The information in Part 573.6 (c) (6) is being revised to update the chronology of events. Additional vehicles with the improper heat treat hubs were identified at Ford's St. Thomas Assembly Plant which were outside the original dates provided by the supplier.

The information in Part 573.6 (c) (8) is being revised to provide new dates for the mailing of the owner notification letters for the additional vehicles.

Sincerely,

James P. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR PART 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
Supplement to 07S54 – 2007 Model Year Lincoln Town Car and 2008 Model Year Ford Crown
Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis Vehicles – Front Hub Assembly Fracture

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 safety recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are certain 2007 model year Lincoln Town Car vehicles built at the Wixom Assembly Plant from May 15, 2007, through June 5, 2007, and certain 2008 model year Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis vehicles built at the St. Thomas Assembly Plant (STAP) from May 16, 2007, through June 25, 2007.

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

Approximately 8,800 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) (6) - Chronology of Events

On May 25, 2007, STAP discovered a vehicle that exhibited noise on the Squeak and Rattle test drive. This vehicle also exhibited excessive end play on the front left hand hub assembly. Two additional vehicles exhibited these concerns on May 25, 2007, and on May 29, 2007, respectively, both at STAP. Upon inspection a circumferential crack on the roll formed end of the hub was noted.

It was determined by the supplier on May 29, 2007, that a manufacturing issue on May 9, 2007 resulted in a small number of hub assemblies being improperly heat treated on that day. The suspect hub assemblies were installed into vehicles built between May 15, 2007, and May 30, 2007. On June 5, 2007, a Technical Review was conducted to assess the available engineering data and on June 6, 2007, a special Field Review Committee approved a field action.

On June 25, 2007, STAP discovered a vehicle that exhibited the same condition during Squeak and Rattle drive. Subsequently, five vehicles have exhibited the condition at STAP. All cracked hub assemblies had a build date of May 17, 2007.

The supplier was not able to provide adequate process control information for the duration of the batch build that began May 9, 2007 and ended May 29, 2007. On June 29, 2007 the Field Review Committee approved a supplement to safety recall 07S54 that includes all vehicles possibly equipped with wheel hub assemblies produced in this batch build, including certain 2007 model year Lincoln Town Car vehicles built at the Wixom Assembly Plant from May 15, 2007, through June 5, 2007, and certain 2008 model year Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis vehicles built at STAP from May 16, 2007, through June 25, 2007.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to have the front hub assemblies inspected and replaced as necessary. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of all owner notification letters will occur on or about July 18, 2007. Notification to Dealers occurred on June 2, 2007.

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.