

James P. Vondale, Director Automotive Safety Office Environmental & Safety Engineering Fairlane Plaza South 330 Town Center Drive Dearborn, MI 48126-2738 USA

August 2, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S28

#### Summary

- Ford Action Ford is recalling certain 1998-2002 model year Ford Ranger, 1992-1998 Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car, 1993-1998 Lincoln Mark VIII, 1993-1995 Ford Taurus SHO with automatic transmission, 1994 Mercury Capri, 1999-2001 Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer, 2001-2002 Ford Explorer Sport and Explorer Sport Trac, 1992-1993 and 1997-2003 Ford E-150-350 gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 2003 E-450 gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 1993 Ford Bronco, 1993 Ford F-Series gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 1995-2002 Ford F53 Motorhome chassis, and 2003-2004 Ford F-150 Lightning vehicles equipped with speed control.
- <u>Number of Vehicles Involved</u> Ford estimates that there are approximately 3.6 million vehicles currently registered in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- <u>Effect on Vehicle Operation</u> The speed control deactivation switch may, under certain conditions, leak internally and then overheat, smoke, or burn.
- Service Procedure Owners of the trucks and SUV's included in the action will be
  instructed to return their vehicles to dealers for installation of a fused wiring harness to
  eliminate the potential risk of fire. Owners of the passenger cars included in this action will
  be instructed to return their vehicles to their dealers to have the speed control deactivation
  switch disconnected as an interim repair. As soon as repair parts are available (expected
  October, 2007) owners will be instructed to return to the dealers for installation of a fused
  wiring harness.

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

Sincerely,

James P. Vondale

Attachment

#### 49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT -- FORD RECALL 05S28

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

Approximately 3.6 million potentially affected vehicles are currently registered in the U.S. and Federalized Territories. Those vehicles are certain 1998-2002 model year Ford Ranger, 1992-1998 Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car, 1993-1998 Lincoln Mark VIII, 1993-1995 Ford Taurus SHO with automatic transmission, 1994 Mercury Capri, 1999-2001 Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer, 2001-2002 Ford Explorer Sport and Explorer Sport Trac, 1992-1993 and 1997-2003 Ford E-150-350 gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 2003 E-450 gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 1993 Ford Bronco, 1993 Ford F-Series gasoline or natural gas vehicles, 1995-2002 Ford F53 Motorhome chassis, and 2003-2004 Ford F-150 Lightning vehicles equipped with speed control.

Vehicles	MY	Assembly Plant	Beginning	End
Ranger	1998-2002	Twin Cities	5/7/1997	8/10/2002
Ranger	1998-2002	Edison	4/8/1997	8/27/2002
Ranger	1998-1999	Louisville	4/25/1997	4/1/1999
Town Car	1992-1998	Wixom	11/5/1991	2/28/1998
Crown Victoria	1992-1998	St. Thomas	2/5/1992	2/28/1998
Grand Marquis	1992-1998	St. Thomas	2/5/1992	2/28/1998
Mark VIII	1993-1998	Wixom	6/18/1992	6/26/1998
Taurus SHO A/T	1993-1995	Atlanta	4/23/1992	6/15/1995
Explorer/Mountaineer	1999-2001	Louisville	6/16/1998	9/27/2000
Explorer/Mountaineer	1999-2001	St. Louis	6/23/1998	12/24/2000
Explorer Sport	2001-2002	Louisville	9/24/1999	8/16/2002
Explorer Sport Trac	2001-2002	Louisville	9/24/1999	8/16/2002
E150-E350	1992-1993	Lorain	4/22/1991	8/31/1993
E150-E350	1997-2002	Lorain	4/9/1996	8/2/2002
E150-E450	2003	Lorain	8/5/2002	12/31/2002
F-Series	1993	Ontario	8/24/1992	8/24/1993
F-Series	1993	Kansas City	6/8/1992	8/21/1993
F-Series	1993	Michigan	5/29/1992	8/13/1993
F-Series	1993	Norfolk	7/27/1992	8/2/1993
Bronco	1993	Michigan	5/28/1992	8/13/1993
F-53 Motorhome (TY1)	1995-1997	Monterrey/Immsa	7/12/1994	12/19/1997
F-53 Motorhome (P131)	1998-2000	Monterrey/Immsa	10/6/1997	12/17/1999
F-53 Motorhome (P131)	2001-2002	Detroit Chassis	11/9/1999	12/27/2002
Capri	1994	Broad Meadows Plant 2	6/11/1993	7/13/1994
F-150 Lightning	2003-2004	Ontario	11/5/2002	5/18/2004

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

Ford estimates that there are approximately 3.6 million potentially affected vehicles currently registered 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

Ford has previously recalled vehicles that were equipped with the Texas Instruments speed control deactivation switch. The vehicles previously recalled contain a specific combination of factors that may cause a switch that is powered at all times to be more likely to leak and develop increased electrical resistance and potential for fire.

Vehicles addressed by this action are not affected by the combination of factors that were in vehicles previously recalled. Rather, the reports appear to relate to leakage in the switch due to long term durability performance issues. Although the rate of alleged speed control deactivation switch fires on these vehicles is extremely low, customers continue to be concerned about the safety of their vehicles. Therefore, Ford is initiating a recall on these remaining vehicles to address ongoing customer concerns even though the vehicles included in this action are not affected by the combination of factors related to the previous actions.

## 573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

In February, 2007 Ford began investigating reports of underhood fires in the affected vehicles as a result of an increasing number of reports. Ford was also contacted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in March, 2007 regarding some of these reports. These reports involved vehicles with more than 13 years in service indicating that a long term durability issue may be affecting the speed control switch. Our investigation found these vehicles do not contain the established combination of factors that can result in a Texas Instruments switch being susceptible to developing a leak. Rather, the reports appear to relate to long term durability performance of the Texas Instruments switch which may result in leakage causing increased electrical resistance within the leaking switch, and the potential for an unattended vehicle fire.

Ford currently lacks the experience and data concerning the longer term durability of the speed control deactivation switch in vehicles with more than 15 years in service. Accordingly, to address ongoing customer concerns with the switch, Ford is taking this action to add a two amp fuse in the speed control deactivation switch circuit or replace the switch with a new generation switch if the previous switch was leaking to protect against extremely long term durability issues.

This action will be taken on all remaining vehicles that use a previous generation speed control deactivation switch that is powered at all times.

# 573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners of the trucks and SUV's included in the action will be instructed to return their vehicles to the dealers for installation of a fused wiring harness to eliminate the potential risk of fire. Owners of the passenger cars included in this action will be instructed to return their vehicles to their dealers to have the speed control deactivation switch disconnected as an interim repair. As soon as repair parts are available (expected October, 2007) owners will be instructed to return to the dealers for installation of a fused wiring harness.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin on August 13, 2007 and be completed on September 19, 2007. Notification to Dealers will occur on August 3, 2007. 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, 2007.

# 573.6 (c) (10) - 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. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded to the agency when available.

#### 573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 05S28 to this action.

#### 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 is October 10, 2007.