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2007 SEP. - 26 AM 8:30

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.



07V-453
(11 Pages)

James P. Vondale, Director
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August 28, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 07S56 - Certain 2008 model year Ford Explorer, Explorer Sport-Trac and Mercury Mountaineer vehicles equipped with the 4.6L engine and 6R transmission.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2008 model year Ford Explorer, Explorer Sport-Trac, and Mercury Mountaineer vehicles to tighten the transmission cooler line attachment bolt.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - 1,497 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation - The bolt securing the transmission oil cooler line fittings at the transmission may not have been sufficiently torqued during vehicle assembly. As a result, the bolt may loosen and the transmission oil cooler lines may disengage from the transmission, causing a transmission fluid leak. If leaking transmission fluid contacts the catalytic converter, it may pose a risk of fire under certain conditions. Ford is not aware of any reports for this condition.
- Service Procedure - Owners will be instructed take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the transmission cooler line attachment bolt tightened.

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, appearing to read "James P. Vondale".

James P. Vondale

Attachments



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
07S56 – CERTAIN 2008 MODEL YEAR FORD EXPLORER, EXPLORER SPORT-TRAC, AND
MERCURY MOUNTAINEER VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSSION COOLER LINE
ATTACHMENT BOLT TORQUE

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 2008 model year Ford Explorer, Explorer Sport-Trac, and Mercury Mountaineer vehicles built at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) from July 23, 2007 through August 14, 2007.

Because Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order, we typically cannot provide VIN specific information. However, 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 1,497 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 bolt securing the transmission oil cooler line fittings at the transmission may not have been sufficiently torqued during vehicle assembly. As a result, the bolt may loosen and the transmission oil cooler lines may disengage from the transmission, causing a transmission fluid leak. If leaking transmission fluid contacts the catalytic converter, it may pose a risk of fire under certain conditions. Ford is not aware of any reports for this condition.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On August 14, 2007, an operator at Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) identified an under torque condition for the Transmission Oil Cooler (TOC) attachment fastener at the transmission. LAP conducted a review and determined that on July 23, 2007, a rebalance and job re-allocation went into effect at LAP following the summer shutdown period. When the operation was relocated, a incorrect DC nutrunner controller was installed resulting in the under torque condition.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners will be instructed take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the transmission cooler line attachment bolt tightened.

Mailing of all owner notification letters will occur on August 30, 2007. Notification to all dealers occurred on August 23, 2007. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners 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) (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.

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 07S56 to this action.

