

April, 2007

Dealer Name
Address
City, ST Zip

VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT NOTIFICATION – Brake Line Routing on 2004-2006 VMI Ford Freestar Conversions

This notice is sent to you in accordance with requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Dear VMI Dealer:

VMI is recalling all VMI Ford Freestar conversions produced between 1/16/2004 and 10/9/2006 for a potentially defective routing of brake lines. Although the occurrence rate of the defect is very low (less than 1%) it is particularly serious as it pertains to braking and the potential of partial or full brake loss.

What is the Problem?:

The brake lines in question route from the master cylinder to the ABS pump. These lines may be routed such that they rub on the OE front stabilizer bar. If one or both of these lines were to rub through, the vehicle may lose a portion of or all of its braking ability due to a loss of hydraulic brake fluid.

What VMI will do:

VMI will send a letter to your customers, within the next few weeks, informing them of the recall and instructing them how to proceed. VMI will instruct the owners of these vehicles to contact your dealership to make a service appointment to have their brake lines inspected and the potential defect remedied. Attached is a list of these vehicles sold by your dealership.

Prior to the end user letters going out you will receive a batch of brake line retaining brackets and a full set of procedural instructions informing your dealership how to perform the recall. The retaining brackets are to be used to secure the brake lines so that they will not interfere with the stabilizer bar in the future. The document, ***Recall DOC4241 – Ford Freestar Hydraulic Brake Line Routing***, fully explains the inspection and remedy process.

What do you, as the dealer, need to do?

Set up an appointment with each customer as they contact your dealership. Once a vehicle is at your facility your service technician will be instructed to inspect the brake lines for wear. If no wear is found, per the instructions, your technician will be instructed to install a retention bracket.

If it is determined that the lines are worn, the brake lines must be replaced immediately by a repair facility specializing in hydraulic brake work or a Ford dealer. Contact VMI prior to the retrofit and VMI will ship you or the repair facility a new brake line kit via overnight service. If the lines are leaking or are ruptured, the vehicle **MUST NOT BE DRIVEN UNER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**. The vehicle must be towed to a brake repair facility. VMI agrees to pay the towing charge.

VMI anticipates that a large percentage of the inspections will not require new brake lines.

To receive warranty reimbursement for the inspection process and retention bracket installation submit a warranty claim for \$55.00 using **Flat Rate Code: P19 Freestar Brake Line Inspection**. By invoicing VMI we then have a record that the inspection was completed and brake line retaining bracket was installed. This work should take less than 1 hour of labor.

To receive warranty reimbursement for a full brake line replacement submit a warranty claim to VMI for the full cost of the brake line replacement using **Flat Rate Code: P20 Freestar Brake Line Replacement** in addition to Flat Rate Code: P19 referenced above for the inspection and retention bracket installation. By invoicing VMI we then have a record that the lines were replaced and the process is complete.

VMI will send your dealership, prior to the end user letters being sent, enough brake line retaining brackets and instructions to cover the vehicle(s) on your list.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact VMI's Technical Support Department at (800) 348-8267.

Sincerely,

David Eaton
Vice President Technical Services
Vantage Mobility International



	SIGNATURE	DATE
ENG	Bruce Blocksom	5-09-07
SUPR	David Eaton	5-09-07
Q.C.	Bob Thelander	5-09-07

Recall DOC4241

Title	Ford Freestar Hydraulic Brake Line Routing		
Assembly Area	N/A	Engineer	Bruce Blocksom
Model	Freestar	Station #	Field

TOOLS:

Safety Jack Stand	Hydraulic Floor Jack
Pneumatic Screw Driver	

Materials:

CA 7018 – Hardware Kit Only 04 – 07 (2 - P Clamps, 1- Self Tap Screw)
CA 7019 – Brake Line Replacement Kit Only for Worn Brake Lines 06 – 07 w/o Trac Control OEM Part Number 6F2Z2C296BH
CA7020 - Brake Line Replacement Kit Only for Worn Brake Lines 06 – 07 w Trac Control Part Number 6F2Z2C296AJ
CA 7021 - Brake Line Replacement Kit Only for Worn Brake Lines 04 – 05 w/o or w Trac Control OEM Part Number 6F2Z2C296DD

SUMMARY

The front metal hydraulic brake lines on the driver side front may be routed too close to the driver side front stabilizer bar (aka anti-sway bar or anti roll bar) resulting in 1) wear-through of the metal brake line by the stabilizer bar, 2) hydraulic fluid loss, and 3) loss of braking.

This document provides instructions for inspection of and re-routing of the metal hydraulic brake lines away from the stabilizer bar.

Please read and understand the following instructions before attempting the inspection and repair. If there are any questions, please call VMI Tech Support.

SAFETY

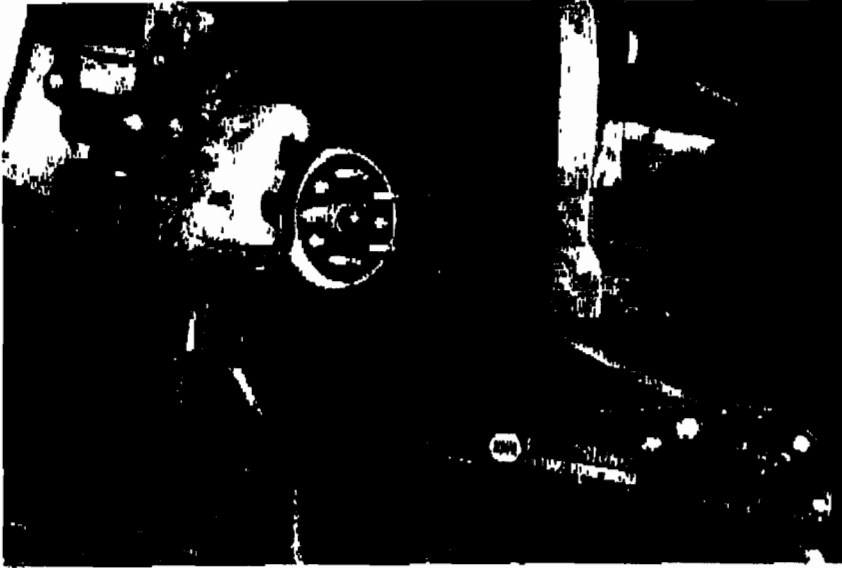
It is imperative to use BOTH a jack stand and floor jack together otherwise serious bodily injury may occur. **DO NOT USE THE OEM VEHICLE JACK.**

DO NOT place the jack stand or floor jack under the brake rotor. **DO NOT** use the brake rotor as a location from which to jack the vehicle.

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INSPECTION PROCEDURE

- 1) **Wheel removed for photo clarity. DO NOT REMOVE WHEEL UNTIL STEP 2.** Use a hydraulic floor jack under the driver side front jack pad and raise the vehicle. Place a safety jack stand under the front suspension lower arm of the driver side front wheel.

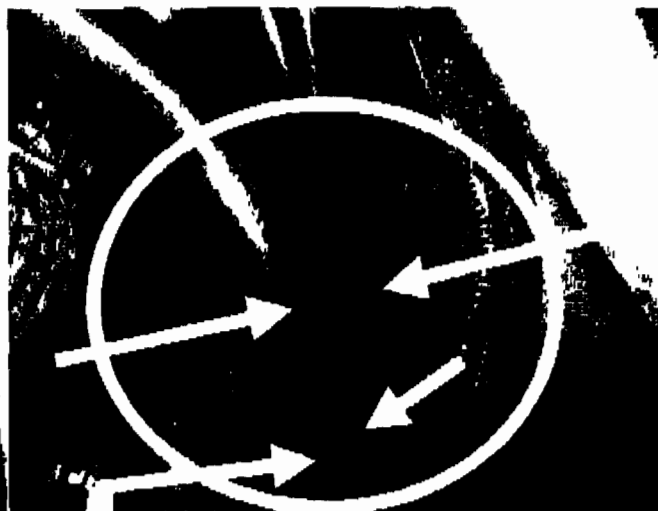


- 2) Lower the hydraulic floor jack just enough so the weight of the driver side front is supported by the jack stand. **LEAVE THE HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK IN PLACE UNDER THE JACK PAD.** Remove the driver side front wheel.



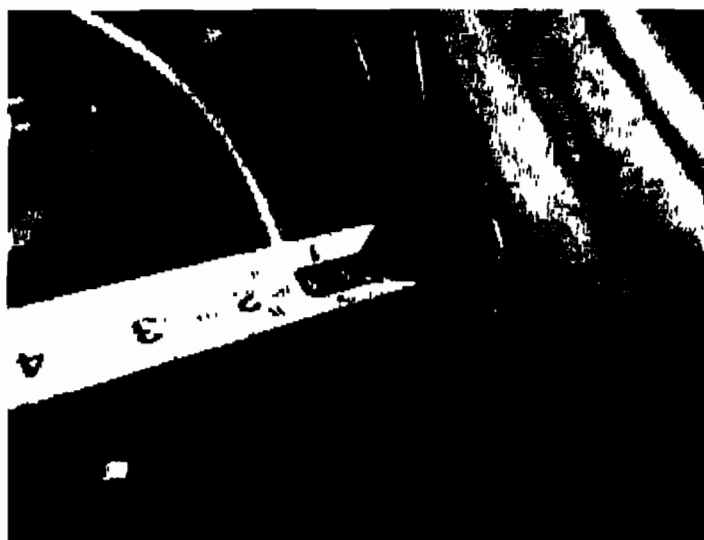
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3) Inspect the area immediately behind the driver side stabilizer bar and stabilizer bar bracket where the hydraulic brake lines are routed.



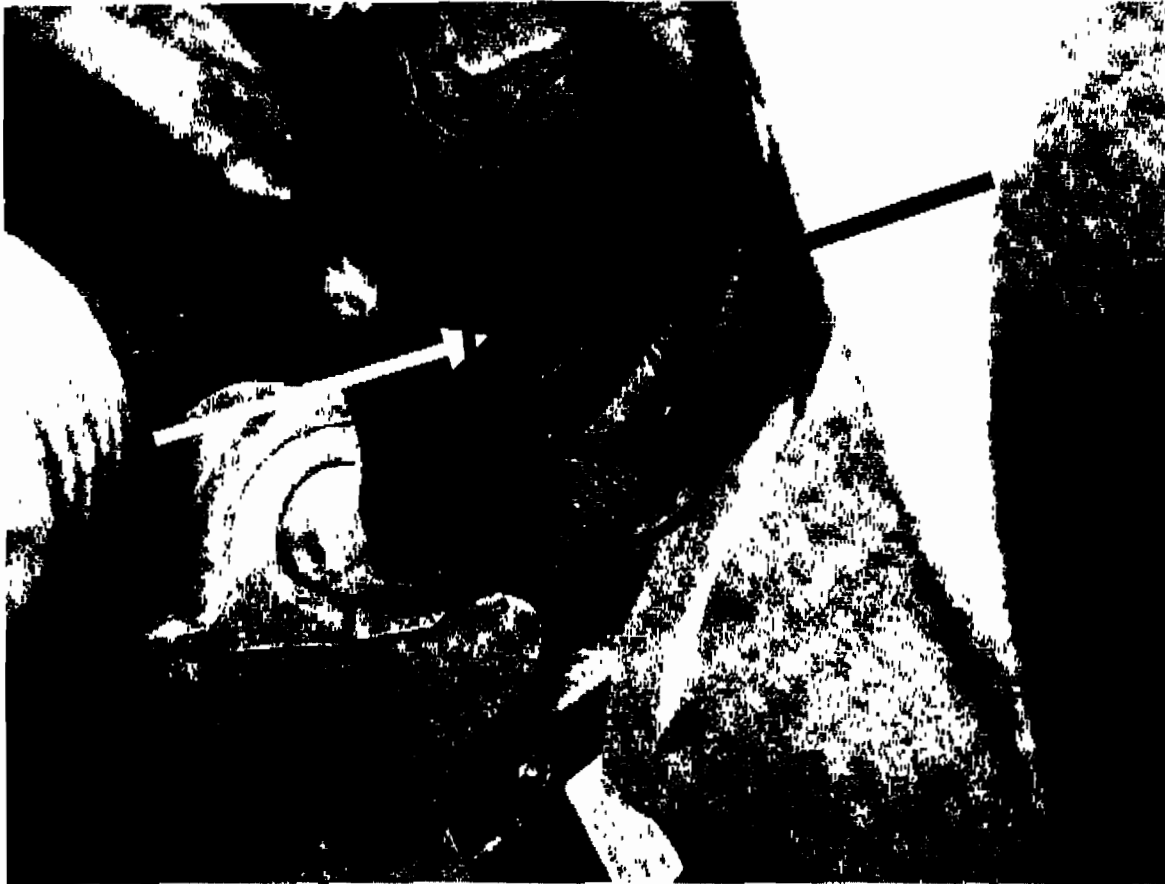
Trace the brake lines from master cylinder to the ABS pump. Brake lines must not be in contact with any portion of the vehicle.

4) There must be at least 1 inch of clearance between the hydraulic lines and any part of the stabilizer bar. The line(s) can easily be repositioned towards the firewall by hand. See photo below.



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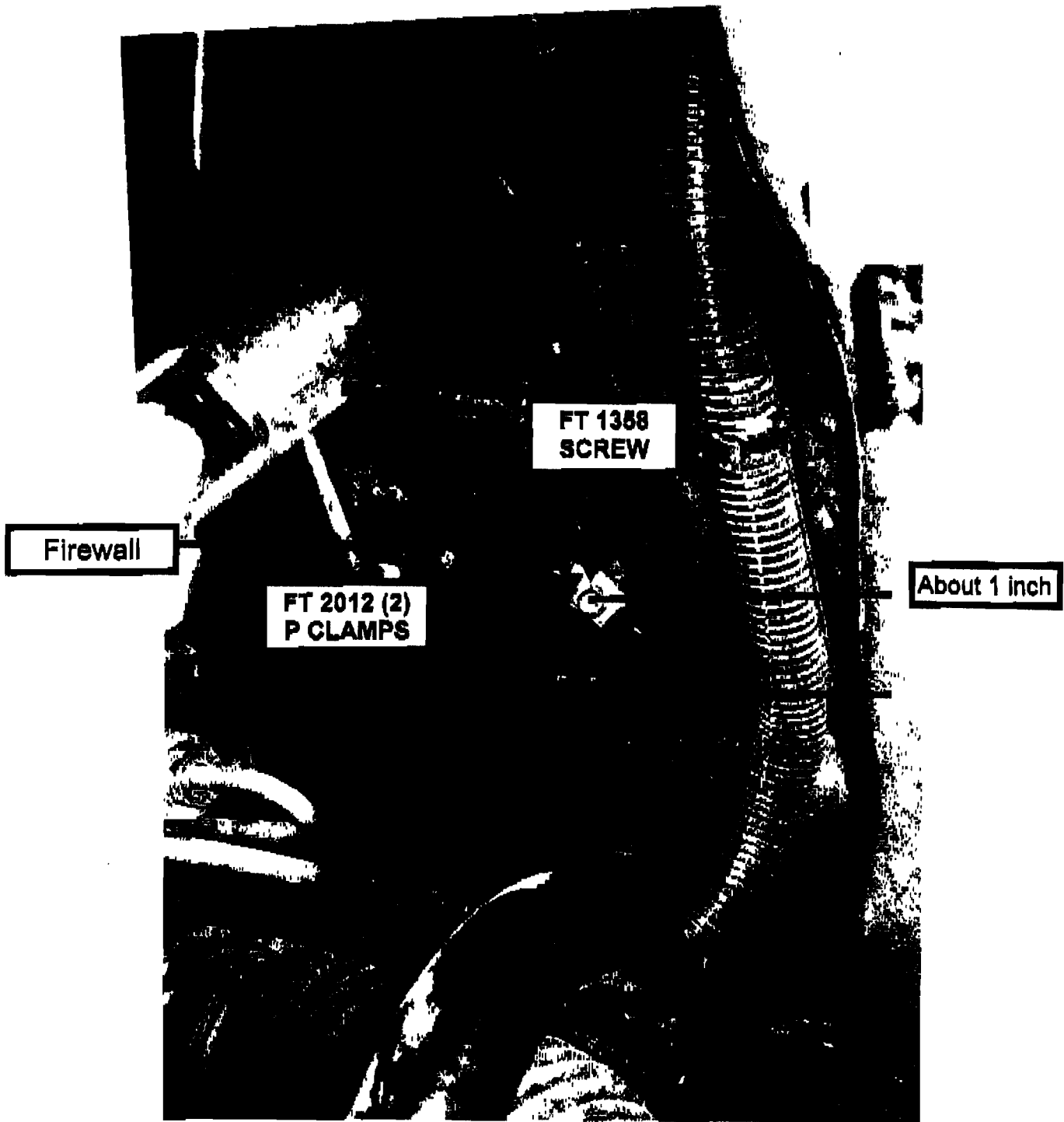
5) Inspect for any indications of rubbing or abrasion of both hydraulic brake lines by the stabilizer bar or the stabilizer bar attachment bracket.



If the paint on either hydraulic line is scuffed but there is no indication of wear to the metal line (i.e. no visible metal showing) the line/s do not need to be replaced.

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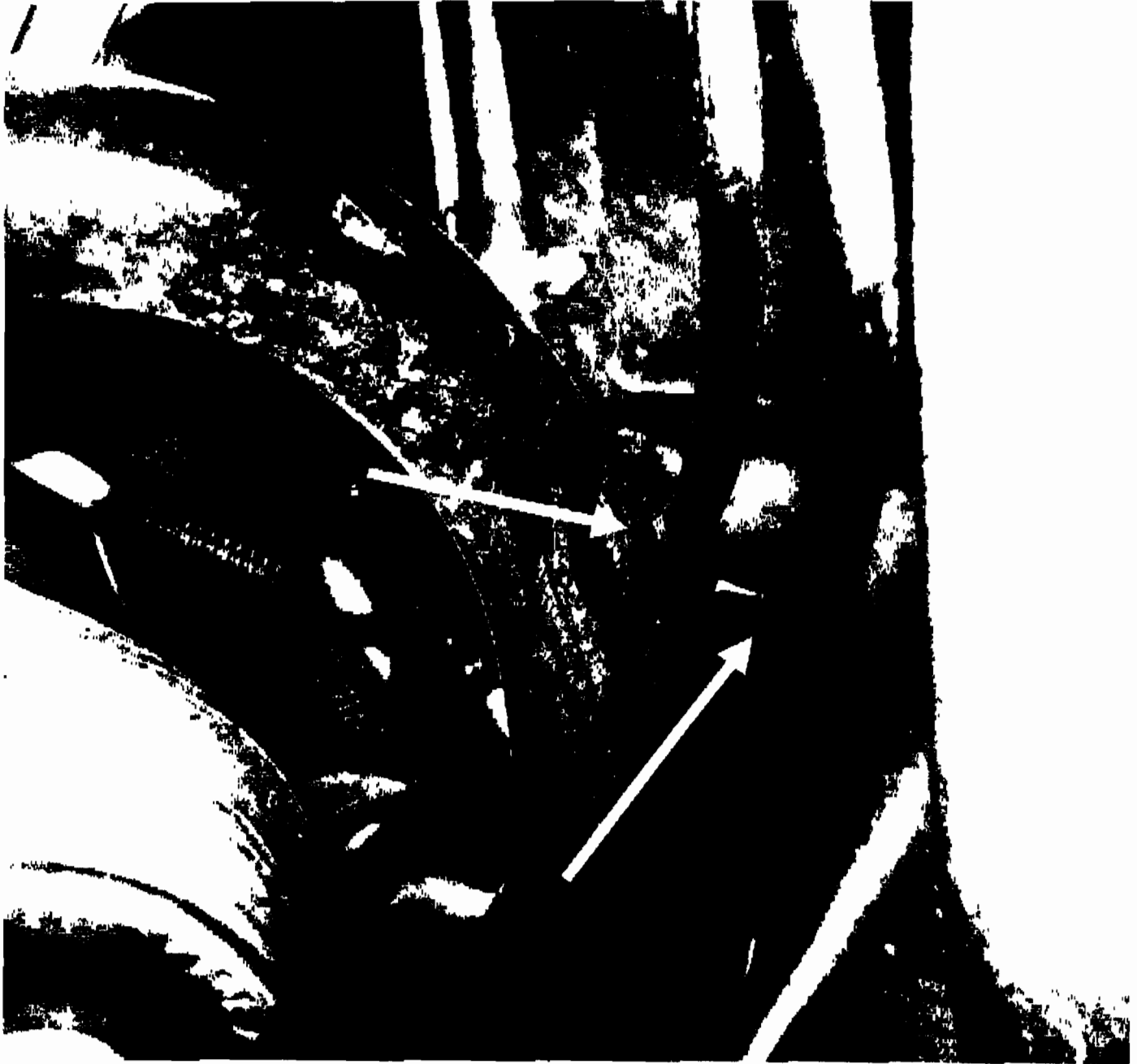
Secure with TWO plastic lined clamps and one sheet metal screw. NOTE location of sheet metal screw (about 1 in above edge of sheet metal).



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If the line has worn through and is leaking hydraulic brake fluid, or if the paint of a line has worn through and the metal of the brake line is visible, the brake line/s must be replaced with the appropriate OEM FORD hydraulic brake line (Kit CA 7019 – 2006 - 2007 w/o Traction Control OEM Part Number 6F2Z2C296BH), (Kit CA7020 – 2006 - 2007 w Traction Control OEM Part Number 6F2Z2C296AJ), (Kit CA7021 – 2004 – 2005 w/o or w Traction Control OEM Part Number 5F2Z2C296DD). Connect lines to the proper ports of the ABS pump (Note: Remove and Replace one (1) Brake Line at a Time).

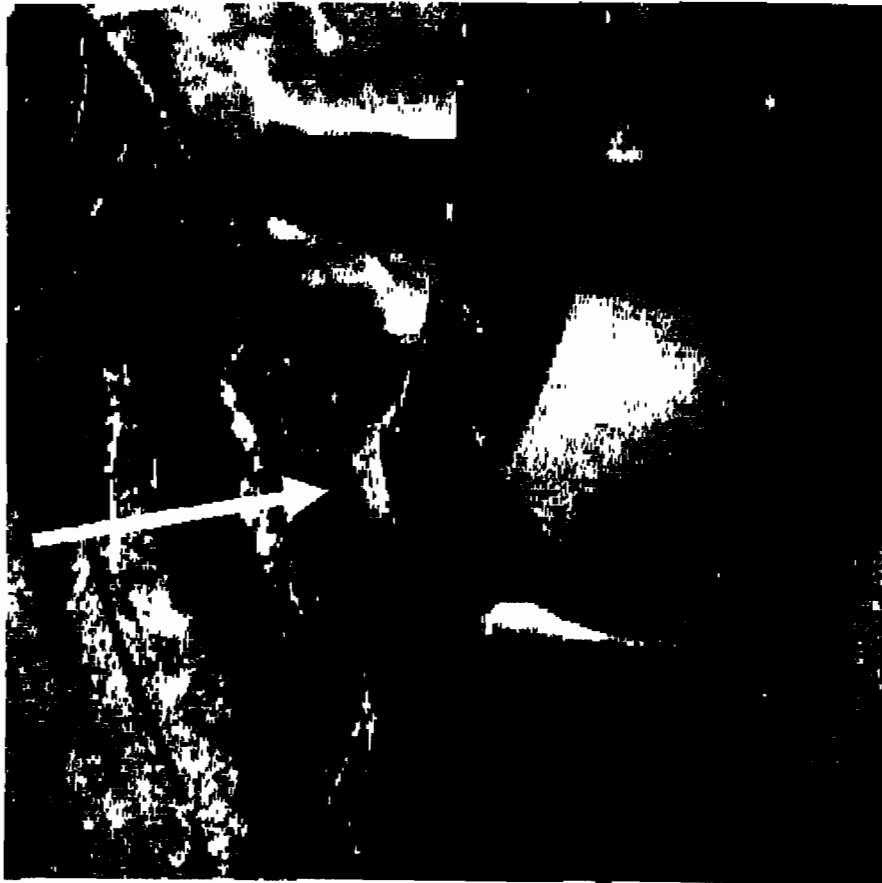
The OEM hydraulic line(s) MUST be ordered from VMI. We will expedite (Overnight) the lines to you. Call 800-348-8267 to order the appropriate lines.



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IMPORTANT: If you are not comfortable installing the brake lines in a vehicle that requires them to be changed, please sublet the repair to a qualified mechanic shop. VMI will pay for the repair whether you install the kit, or you send it out to be done.

Photo showing actual rubbing of BOTH brake lines. NOTE the upper brake line has almost completely rubbed through. See enlargements next page

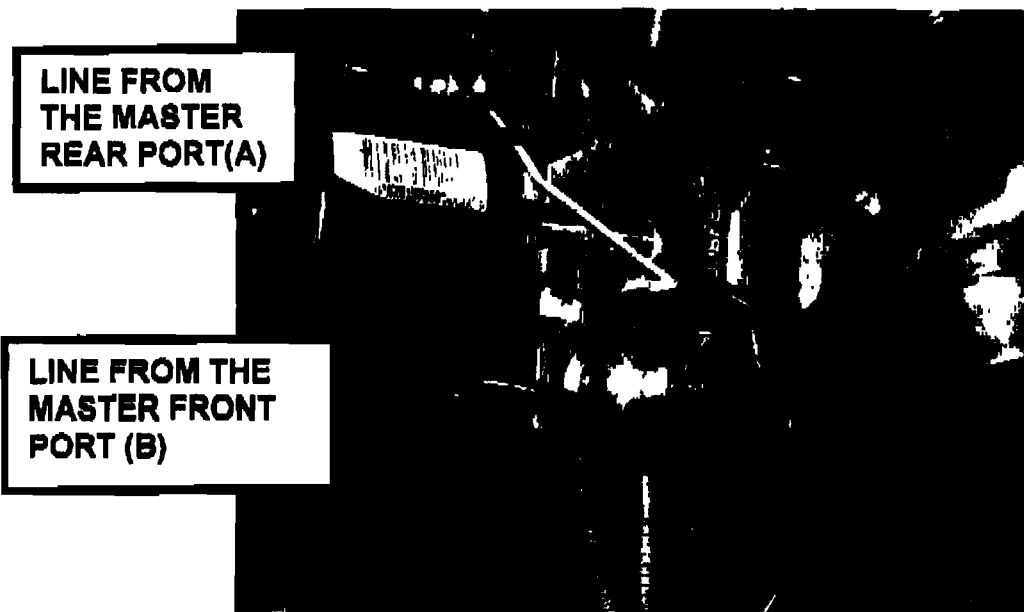


Call VMI tech support if there are any questions. Digital photos of suspect areas are very useful in determining the need for replacement.

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Line/s Replacement Procedure

NOTE: IF THE HYDRAULIC LINES NEED TO BE REPLACED, THEY MUST BE INSTALLED TO THE CORRECT PORT OF THE ABS PUMP FROM THE MASTER CYLINDER OTHERWISE THE ABS WILL NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY. (Note: Remove and Replace one (1) Brake Line at a Time).



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Route the replacement brake lines from the master cylinder to the driver side of the steering wheel shaft and against the firewall. Secure with TWO plastic lined clamps and one sheet metal screw. NOTE location of sheet metal screw (about 1 in above edge of sheet metal).

Connect lines to the proper ports of the ABS pump (Note: Remove and Replace one (1) Brake Line at a Time).



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- 6) Replace brake fluid with Ford approved brake fluid and BLEED ALL BRAKE LINES OF ALL FOUR WHEELS. Check for brake fluid leaks at fittings.
- 7) Test drive vehicle. Check for brake fluid leaks.
- 8) Process complete.

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