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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

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February 21, 2008

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE/W45-231  
Washington, DC 20590

08V-082  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

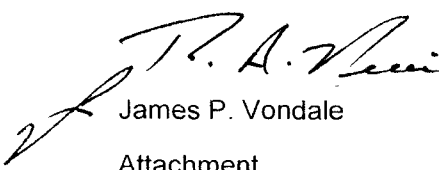
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) recall No. 08C02 - Certain 2005-2008 Model Year Ford Mustangs

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary compliance-related recall involving 2005-2008 model year Mustangs to update the software in the restraint control module (RCM) to address a potential non-compliance with one specific FMVSS 208 requirement that relates to an unbelted 5<sup>th</sup> percentile female anthropomorphic test device, with the front passenger seat positioned full forward. The action that Ford is undertaking does not affect the vehicle's five star frontal crash ratings achieved as part of NHTSA's new car assessment program.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 434,593 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Description of Non-Compliance - A 2007 Ford Mustang V-6 coupe was tested by NHTSA's Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance to the requirements of S16.1(b) of FMVSS 208. One requirement of S15.3.6(a)(5) was exceeded for the unbelted, front passenger 5<sup>th</sup> percentile female anthropomorphic test device seated in the full forward position.
- Service Program - Ford will notify dealers to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until they are updated with new software for the restraint control module. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer for the software update. Ford will also instruct owners to have all occupants wear their safety belts and move the passenger seat rearward away from the passenger airbag thus eliminating any real world safety risk associated with this noncompliance.

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 - NON-COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT  
08C02 – 2005-2008 Ford Mustangs

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-compliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) submits the following information concerning a potential non-compliance to one of the requirements of S15.3.6(a)(5) of FMVSS 208 for 2005-2008 model year Ford Mustangs when a test is conducted pursuant to the requirements of S16.1(b) of FMVSS 208.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

All Ford Mustangs vehicles built from April 22, 2005, through January 31, 2008, at the Auto Alliance Plant are potentially affected. This includes part of the 2005 model year, all of the 2006 and 2007 model years, and part of the 2008 model year.

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 (1-866-436-7332) 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 434,593 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.

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

Unknown.

573.6 (c) (5) - Description of Non-Compliance

A 2007 Ford Mustang V-6 coupe was tested by NHTSA's Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance to the requirements of S16.1(b) of FMVSS 208. One requirement of S15.3.6(a)(5) was exceeded for the unbelted, front passenger 5<sup>th</sup> percentile female anthropomorphic test device seated in the full forward position.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accidents or injuries related to this non-compliance.

573.6 (c) (7) - Basis of Non-Compliance Determination

On July 24, 2007, Ford was informed of the test results recorded for a 2007 Ford Mustang in a test conducted pursuant to the requirements of S16.1(b) of FMVSS 208 for the NHTSA using an unbelted, front passenger 5<sup>th</sup> percentile female anthropomorphic test device. An investigation was undertaken, including inspection of the test vehicle, additional crash, system, and subsystem testing and analysis to confirm the observed condition and to determine vehicles potentially affected. After an extensive investigation, it was determined that the subject vehicles do not comply with the requirements specified above.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Ford will notify dealers to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until they are updated with new software for the restraint control module. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer for the software update. Ford will also instruct them to have all occupants wear their safety belts and move the passenger seat rearward away from the passenger airbag. An owner can take these steps to eliminate any real world safety risk associated with this noncompliance.

There will be no charge to owners for this service. Mailing of owner notification letters will begin February 28, 2008, and be completed by February 29, 2008. Dealers will be notified on February 22, 2008.

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 public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the Notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded when available.

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 08C02 to this action.