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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-096
(2 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) recall No. 08C01 - Certain 2008 Model Year F-250 through F-550 vehicles with a driver's 40% split or captain's chair seat equipped with lumbar support.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary FMVSS 207 compliance-related recall involving certain 2008 model year F-250 through F-550 vehicles to add a reinforcement to the driver's seat back frame or, if necessary, replace the seat back frame.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 87,515 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Description of Non-Compliance - Ford's seat supplier shipped 40% split and captain's chair driver's seats, equipped with lumbar supports, that may have improper welds at the joint of the seat back pivot bracket and the seat back frame. Depending on amount of the weld holding the pivot bracket to the seat back frame, some affected seats may not fully comply with the requirements of FMVSS 207 section S4.2 for seat back strength. As of January 15, 2008, there are no known reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.
- Service Program - Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have a reinforcement added to the driver's seat back frame on the 40% split or captain's chair seat equipped with lumbar support or, if necessary, the seat back frame replaced.

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
08C01 - 2008 MODEL YEAR FORD F-250 THROUGH F-550
VEHICLES WITH A 40% SPLIT OR CAPTAIN'S CHAIR DRIVER'S SEAT EQUIPPED WITH
LUMBAR SUPPORT

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 the requirements of Section S 4.2 of FMVSS 207 for certain 2008 model year F-250 through F-550 vehicles with 40% split or captain chair driver's seats equipped with lumbar support.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Certain F-250 through F-550 vehicles built from January 29, 2007 through June 16, 2007 at the Kentucky Truck Assembly Plant are potentially affected.

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 or Lincoln/Mercury 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 87,515 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

Ford's seat supplier shipped 40% split and captain's chair driver's seats, equipped with lumbar supports, that may have improper welds at the joint of the seat back pivot bracket and the seat back frame. Depending on amount of the weld holding the pivot bracket to the seat back frame, some affected seats may not fully comply with the requirements of FMVSS 207 section S4.2 for seat back strength. As of January 15, 2008, there are no known reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

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

On September 17, 2007, the Ford Compliance Review Committee was notified by seat engineering that they had received warranty reports on driver's 40% split and captain's chair seats equipped with lumbar support for loose seat back, squeak/rattle reports and broken welds in service. An investigation was undertaken, including the inspection of field return parts, vehicles in service, supplier process reports and equipment capability to determine the cause. It was determined that on a very small number of the seat back frame assemblies, the weld of the side pivot bracket to the seat back frame may not be adequate, which can result in cracked or broken welds. Based on the information gathered, on February 14, 2008 Ford determined that seats with this condition may not meet the performance requirements of section S 4.2 of FMVSS 207.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have a reinforcement added to the driver's seat back frame on the 40% split or captain's chair seat equipped with lumbar support or, if necessary, the seat back frame replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur during the week of March 24, 2008. Notification to Dealers will occur on March 17, 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 08C01 to this action.