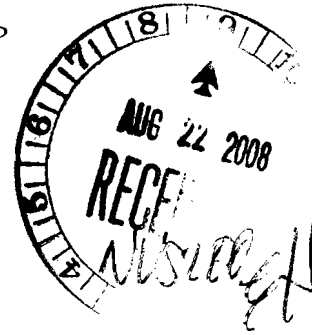


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MANAGEMENT DIVISION

*Ford Motor Company*



Automotive Safety Office  
Environmental and Safety Engineering

August 20, 2008

08V-428  
(3 Pages)

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

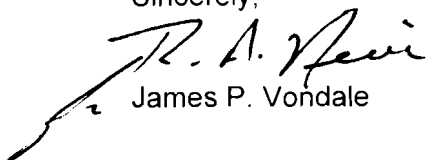
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 08V02 - Certain 2008 and 2009 Model Year Ford F-650/750 Truck Fuel Pump Plug.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is providing this notice of a defect in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.3(f) based on a Caterpillar determination of a defect related to engine fuel pump plugs in certain C7 and C9 engines supplied to Ford and other original equipment vehicle manufacturers. Affected Ford vehicles are certain 2008 and 2009 model year Ford F-650/750 trucks.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 2,811 Ford vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation - Caterpillar has made a determination that a safety defect exists in certain C7 and C9 engines supplied to several original equipment vehicle manufacturers, including Ford. In a June 26, 2008 letter to the agency, Caterpillar indicated that "a fuel pump outlet check plug crack will cause fuel to spray and leak out of a crack in the plug, which may be a potential fire hazard." Ford has not undertaken an independent investigation separate from Caterpillar due to the potential delay in completing an analysis to determine if the condition presents an unreasonable risk to safety in the affected 2008 and 2009 model year F-650/750 trucks. Accordingly, we are submitting this notification based solely on Caterpillar's assessment of the condition. Caterpillar indicated that fuel leaks have been reported on three Ford trucks as of July 30, 2008, with no reports of fire.
- Service Procedure - Owners will be notified by Caterpillar and instructed to take their vehicles to an authorized Caterpillar dealer to have the fuel pump plugs 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



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT  
08V02 – 2008 and 2009 MODEL YEAR FORD F-650/750 TRUCKS  
CATERPILLAR ENGINE FUEL PUMP PLUG LEAK

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-compliance 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 and 2009 model year Ford F-650/750 trucks built at the Escobedo Assembly Plant (EAP) from January 30, 2007 through June 13, 2008.

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 2,811 Ford 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

Caterpillar has made a determination that a safety defect exists in certain C7 and C9 engines supplied to several original equipment vehicle manufacturers, including Ford. In a June 26, 2008 letter to the agency, Caterpillar indicated that "a fuel pump outlet check plug crack will cause fuel to spray and leak out of a crack in the plug, which may be a potential fire hazard." Ford has not undertaken an independent investigation separate from Caterpillar due to the potential delay in completing an analysis to determine if the condition presents an unreasonable risk to safety in the affected 2008 and 2009 model year F-650/750 trucks. Accordingly, we are submitting this notification based solely on Caterpillar's assessment of the condition. Caterpillar indicated that fuel leaks have been reported on three Ford trucks as of July 30, 2008, with no reports of fire.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On July 2, 2008 Ford was notified by Caterpillar that it had filed a defect notification with NHTSA regarding a safety defect in C7 and C9 engine fuel pump plugs that may fracture and leak diesel fuel (NHTSA recall 08E-042). Ford notified NHTSA in a letter dated August 11, 2008 that Caterpillar had contacted Ford regarding the defect determination in C7 and C9 engines in Ford trucks.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners will be notified by Caterpillar and instructed to take their vehicles to an authorized Caterpillar dealer to have the fuel pump plugs replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

The service action will be conducted and administered by Caterpillar as described in their June 26, 2008 letter to the agency. Ford will provide vehicle and owner information to Caterpillar in August 2008 based on the final engine serial number information provided to Ford by Caterpillar on July 2, 2008. Caterpillar is notifying Ford customers directly. As indicated in Caterpillar's June 26, 2008 49 CFR Part 573 defect letter to the agency, Caterpillar will provide quarterly recall completion reports.

In accordance with Part 573.13(d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this problem because Caterpillar's original warranty coverage 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. A copy of the notification letters to dealers from Ford will be forwarded to the agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 08V02 to this action.