



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 7, 2009

MR. JAMES P. VONDALE
DIRECTOR, AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY OFFICE
FORD MOTOR COMPANY
330 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 400
DEARBORN MI 48126-2738

NVS-215kjs
09V-112

SUBJECT: FUEL TANK PROTECTION BRACKET LOCATION

DEAR MR. VONDALE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the vehicles described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal laws.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
FORD/ECONOLINE/2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-112 **Mfg's Report Date:** April 6, 2009

Components: FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE:STORAGE:TANK
ASSEMBLY:MOUNTING

Potential Number of Units Affected: 429

Summary:

FORD MOTOR COMPANY IS RECALLING 429 MY 2009 FORD ECONOLINE E-350 AND E-450 CUTAWAY SCHOOL BUS PREP PACKAGE VEHICLES MANUFACTURED FROM APRIL 22, 2008 THROUGH MARCH 2, 2009, TO REPOSITION THE UPPER FUEL TANK PROTECTION BRACKET ON THE FRAME RAIL.

Consequence:

IN CERTAIN TYPES OF VERY SEVERE CRASHES, THE FUEL TANK MAY BE DAMAGED AND RESULT IN A LEAK. A FUEL LEAK IN THE PRESENCE OF AN IGNITION SOURCE COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

FORD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEALERS WILL REPOSITION THE UPPER FUEL TANK PROTECTION BRACKET FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE APRIL 14, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FORD TOLL-FREE AT 1-866-436-7332 OR CONTACT A LOCAL FORD OR LINCOLN/MERCURY DEALER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Notes:

FORD'S RECALL NO. 09S08. OWNERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577. Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement