



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

June 24, 2009

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

NVS-215dgl  
09V-231

Subject: FRAME RAIL FUEL TANK GUARD BRACKETS

Dear MR. VONDALE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 301, "Fuel System Integrity," in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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/E-350/2008-2009

FORD/E-450/2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-231

**Mfg's Report Date:** June 16, 2009

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

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 65

**Summary:**

FORD IS RECALLING 65 MY 2008-2009 E-350 AND MY 2009 E450 CUTAWAY VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH SCHOOL BUS PREP PACKAGES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 301, "FUEL SYSTEM INTEGRITY." THESE VEHICLES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED WITH THE FUEL TANK PROTECTION BRACKETS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL BUS APPLICATIONS.

**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:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT FOR PROPER FUEL TANK PROTECTION BRACKET INSTALLATION AND INSTALL BRACKETS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE JUNE 26, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FORD AT 1-866-436-7332 OR THROUGH THE INTERNET AT [WWW.OWNERCONNECTION.COM](http://WWW.OWNERCONNECTION.COM).

**Notes:**

FORD RECALL NO. 09C08. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.

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

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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 Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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