



James P. Vondale, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental & Safety Engineering

Fairlane Plaza South
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738 USA

January 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 09S07 - Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger, 4x2 Vehicles Front Spindle Fracture

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2009 model year Ford Ranger, 4x2 vehicles to inspect and if necessary replace the front spindle.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 11,134 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation - The front spindle may have been manufactured without proper heat treating. Investigation has found that if a spindle is not properly heat treated, over time the spindle may fatigue to fracture without warning which may allow the front spindle and wheel to separate from the vehicle. Ford is not aware of any reports of this condition on vehicles in service.
- Service Procedure - Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to inspect the front spindle manufacturing date and if necessary replace the front spindle.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Vondale".

James P. Vondale

RECEIVED
2009 FEBRUARY 3 -- 9:00 AM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
09S07 -- 2009 MODEL YEAR FORD RANGER VEHICLES
FRONT SPINDLE FRACTURE

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 2009 model year Ford Ranger, 4x2 vehicles built at the Twin Cities Assembly Plant (TCAP) from August 22, 2008 through October 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 11,134 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

The front spindle may have been manufactured without proper heat treating. Investigation has found that if a spindle is not properly heat treated, over time the spindle may fatigue to fracture without warning which may allow the front spindle and wheel to separate from the vehicle. Ford is not aware of any reports of this condition on vehicles in service.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

Two Ranger 4x2 vehicles with separated front wheels were found on a rail car at a California shipping destination on September 26th, 2008. The front spindles had fractured and separated. On October 7, 2008 a quality hold was placed on front spindles for the 4x2 vehicles at the Twin Cities Assembly Plant. Ford Engineering conducted bench testing of front spindles from the same manufacturing lot as those that had fractured to determine the spindle properties. Bench testing was completed and it was determined that on some spindles, fatigue performance is reduced. On October 16, 2008, Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) was notified. In November and early December 2008, engineering conducted additional testing and microstructure analysis on spindles and it was determined that improper heat treating can result in internal micro structure irregularities that may result in a fracture of the spindle during the life of the vehicle. Spindles with improper heat treating were installed in a vehicle and subjected to rail car shipping simulation on December 10, 2008. The spindles did not fracture. These same spindles were removed from the vehicle and bench fatigue tested in the week of December 14, 2008. The parts completed fatigue

cycles that represent approximately 15,000 miles of severe duty operation before fracturing. Microstructure analysis confirmed that the tested parts were among the most severely affected parts that had been identified. In conjunction with the testing, a manufacturing investigation was conducted which included an in-depth Tier I and Tier II supplier process review, and a review of supplier and Ford inventory control and shipping records. It was determined that a limited number of spindles produced during certain manufacturing dates may have had improper heat treating.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to have the front spindle manufacturing date reviewed and, if necessary, the front spindle will be replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur on January 27, 2009. Notification to dealers will occur on January 20, 2009.

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

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 09S07 to this action.



Michael A. Berardi
Director
Service Engineering Operations
Ford Customer Service Division

Ford Motor Company
P. O. Box 1904
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

January 20, 2009

TO: All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 09S07:
Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger 4x2 Vehicles
Front Wheel Spindle Inspection

AFFECTED VEHICLES

Certain 2009 model year Ford Ranger 4x2 vehicles built at the Twin Cities Assembly Plant from August 22, 2008 through October 13, 2008. Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS. In addition, for a list of vehicles assigned to your dealership, visit <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com>.

REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL

Some front wheel spindles were improperly manufactured creating the risk that a spindle may fracture during the normal useful life of the truck. If a spindle fractures, the wheel may separate from the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash without warning.

SERVICE ACTION

Do not demonstrate or deliver affected vehicles that remain in your new vehicle inventory unless the vehicle has passed the inspection of the spindle batch codes and date codes in Attachment III. If one or both spindles were built within the affected batch and/or build date range, the spindle or spindles must be replaced. This service must be performed on affected vehicles at no charge to the vehicle owner.

PLEASE NOTE:

Federal law requires dealers to complete this recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$6,000 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment I: Administrative Information
- Attachment II: Labor Allowances and Parts Ordering Information
- Attachment III: Technical Information
- Customer Notification Letter

QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE

- Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only)1-800-325-5621
- Special Service Support Center (Part Orders Only)1-800-207-2444

Sincerely,



Michael A. Berardi

**DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 09S07
Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger 4x2 Vehicles
Front Wheel Spindle Inspection**

OASIS ACTIVATED?

Yes, OASIS will be activated by January 20, 2009.

FSA VIN LIST ACTIVATED?

Yes, FSA VIN list will be available through <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com> by January 20, 2009. Owner names and addresses will be available by January 30, 2009.

NOTE: Your FSA VIN list may contain owner names and addresses obtained from motor vehicle registration records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any purpose other than in connection with this recall is a violation of law in several states, provinces, and countries. Accordingly, you must limit the use of this listing to the follow-up necessary to complete this recall action.

STOCK VEHICLES

Correct all affected units in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

SOLD VEHICLES

- Owners of affected vehicles will be directed to dealers for repairs.
- Immediately contact any of your affected owners whose vehicles are not on your VIN lists but are identified in OASIS. Give the owner a copy of the Customer Notification Letter (when available) and schedule a service date.
- Correct other affected vehicles identified in OASIS which are brought to your dealership.

TITLE BRANDED / SALVAGED VEHICLES

Affected title branded and salvaged vehicles are eligible for this Field Service Action.

RELATED DAMAGE

If a related damage condition exists that you believe to be caused by a fractured front wheel spindle, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to the repair of any related damage. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted. Ford Motor Company reserves the right to deny coverage for related damage in cases where the vehicle owner has not had this recall performed on a timely basis.

ADDITIONAL LABOR TIME

- If a condition exists that requires additional labor to complete the repair, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to performing any additional labor. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted.
- If you encounter aftermarket equipment or modifications to the vehicle which might prevent the repair of the covered condition, call the Special Service Support Center.

**DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 09S07
Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger 4x2 Vehicles
Front Wheel Spindle Inspection**

OWNER REFUNDS

Refunds are not authorized for this program.

RENTAL VEHICLES

If a customer's vehicle requires replacement of one or both front wheel spindles and it is necessary to order parts, Ford will pay for one day of vehicle rental except for fuel and insurance which will be at the owner's expense. The parts order must be an emergency order (unit down) if the order is placed between 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM (your local time zone) to guarantee next day delivery. Prior approval for additional rental days is required from the Special Service Support Center (1-800-325-5621). Rentals should be provided only while the vehicle is at the dealership for part replacement. Follow Extended Service Plan (ESP) guidelines for rental dollar amounts. Enter the word "RENTAL" plus the number of days the vehicle was used in the Miscellaneous Expense area of the recall claim form.

CLAIMS PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

- Enter claims using Direct Warranty Entry (DWE).
- Related damage must be claimed on a repair line that is separate from the repair line on which the FSA is claimed. Related damage requires prior approval from the Special Service Support Center.
- "MT" labor should be submitted on a separate repair line with the related damage flag checked. "MT" labor requires prior approval from the Special Service Support Center.
- Refer to ACESII manual for claims preparation and submission information.

DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 09S07
Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger 4x2 Vehicles
Front Wheel Spindle Inspection

LABOR ALLOWANCES

Description	Labor Operation	Labor Time
Inspect both front wheel spindles. Both spindles pass inspection (replacement not required).	09S07A	0.2 Hour
Inspect both front wheel spindles. Replace one spindle, check camber caster and toe, adjust toe.	09S07B	1.6 Hour
Inspect both front wheel spindles. Replace both spindles, check camber caster and toe, adjust toe.	09S07C	2.4 Hours

NOTE: Only one Labor Operation Code can be claimed per vehicle.

PARTS REQUIREMENTS / ORDERING INFORMATION

Parts will not be direct shipped for this program.

To manage part availability, the order process will direct you to place orders through the Special Service Support Center parts order line (800-207-2444). Dealers will receive a DOES II message when part requirements can be ordered through normal order processing channels.

The DOR/COR number for this safety recall is 50404.

Part Number	Description	Quantity
9L5Z-3D076-A	Spindle attaching hardware kit (for one spindle, left or right)	1 per spindle as required
5L5Z-3106-AA	Left (driver side) spindle for coil spring suspension	As required
5L5Z-3105-AA	Right (passenger side) spindle for coil spring suspension	As required
5L5Z-3106-BA *	Left (driver side) spindle for torsion bar suspension	As required
5L5Z-3105-BA *	Right (passenger side) spindle for torsion bar suspension	As required

* Approximately 13% of the affected vehicles have torsion bar suspension.

Questions regarding parts should be directed to the Special Service Support Center (800-207-2444) or E-mailed to: Ford@Renkim.com.

**DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD: Safety Recall 09S07
Certain 2009 Model Year Ford Ranger 4x2 Vehicles
Front Wheel Spindle Inspection**

DEALER PRICE

For latest prices, refer to DOES II.

PARTS RETENTION AND RETURN

Follow the provisions of the Warranty and Policy Manual for "Parts Retention and Return Procedures."

EXCESS STOCK RETURN

Excess stock returned for credit must have been purchased from Ford Customer Service Division in accordance with Policy Procedure Bulletin 4000.

CERTAIN 2009 MODEL YEAR RANGER 4X2 VEHICLES — FRONT WHEEL SPINDLE INSPECTION

OVERVIEW

This inspection involves locating and identifying the spindle batch code and date code on the in-board side of each of the front wheel spindles.

INSPECTION

1. NOTE: Make sure that the steering column is unlocked so that the front wheels will have side-to-side movement. Move the front wheels slowly to avoid aeration in the power steering system.

With the vehicle in NEUTRAL, position it on a hoist. For additional information, refer to the WSM, Section 100-02.



- Turn the front wheels so that a clear visual inspection of the inner spindle area can be performed on both the LH and RH front wheel spindles. Using a flashlight, inspect the front wheel spindle batch code and date code. See Figure 1.

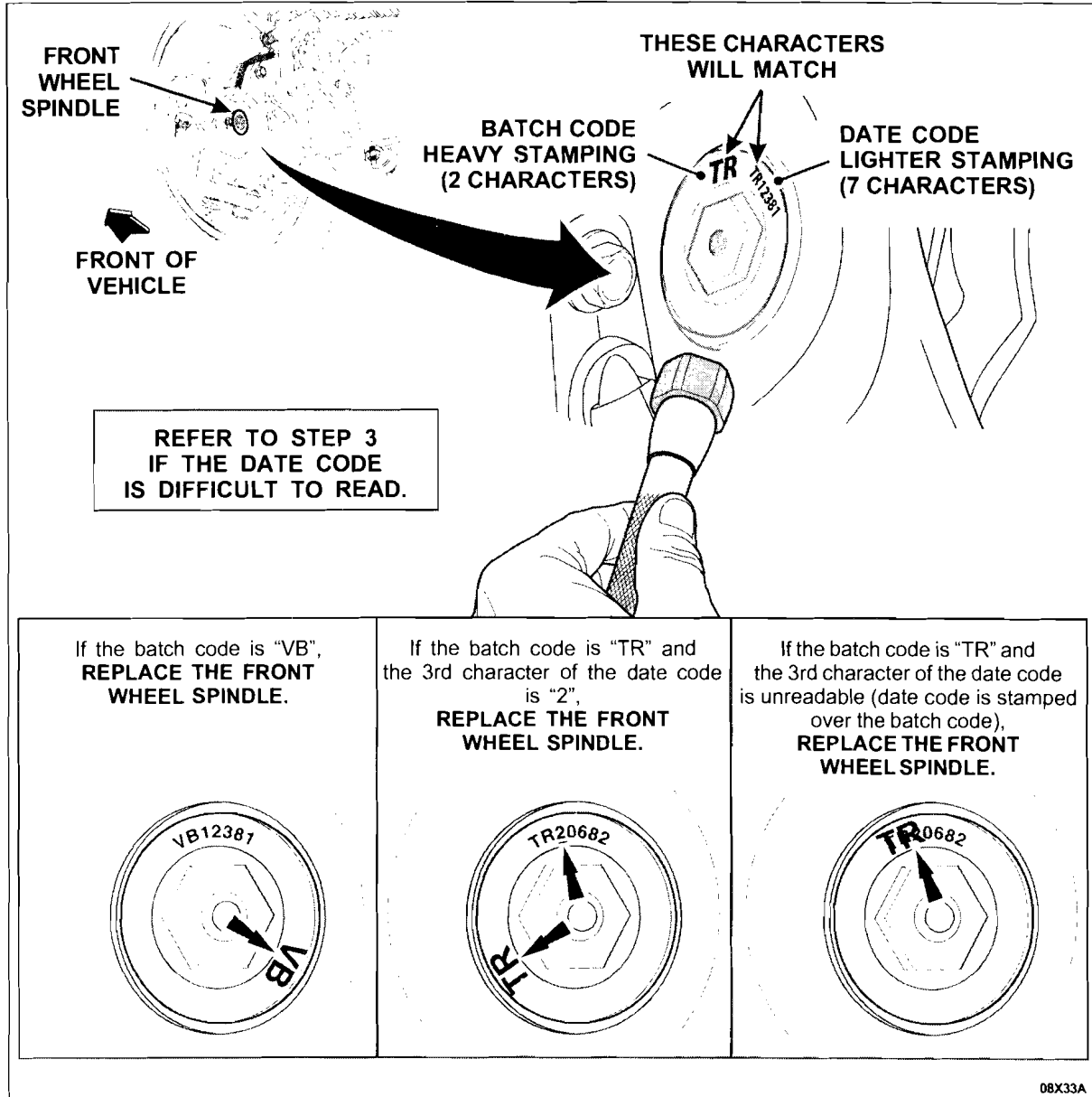


FIGURE 1

NOTE: The third character of a TR spindle will either be a 1 or a 2. Spindles with "TR1" **DO NOT** require replacement.

NOTE: Spindles with a batch code other than VB or TR **DO NOT** require replacement.



3. If the front wheel spindle date code is NOT clear or visible on a TR spindle, fill the character stamping with white or yellow touch-up paint to improve visibility. See Figure 2.
 - Apply a layer of white or yellow touch-up paint over the date code.
 - Using your finger, remove the excess paint. DO NOT use a shop towel. The towel will remove too much of the paint and impair the ability to read the date code.

IF A TR SPINDLE DATE CODE IS NOT CLEAR

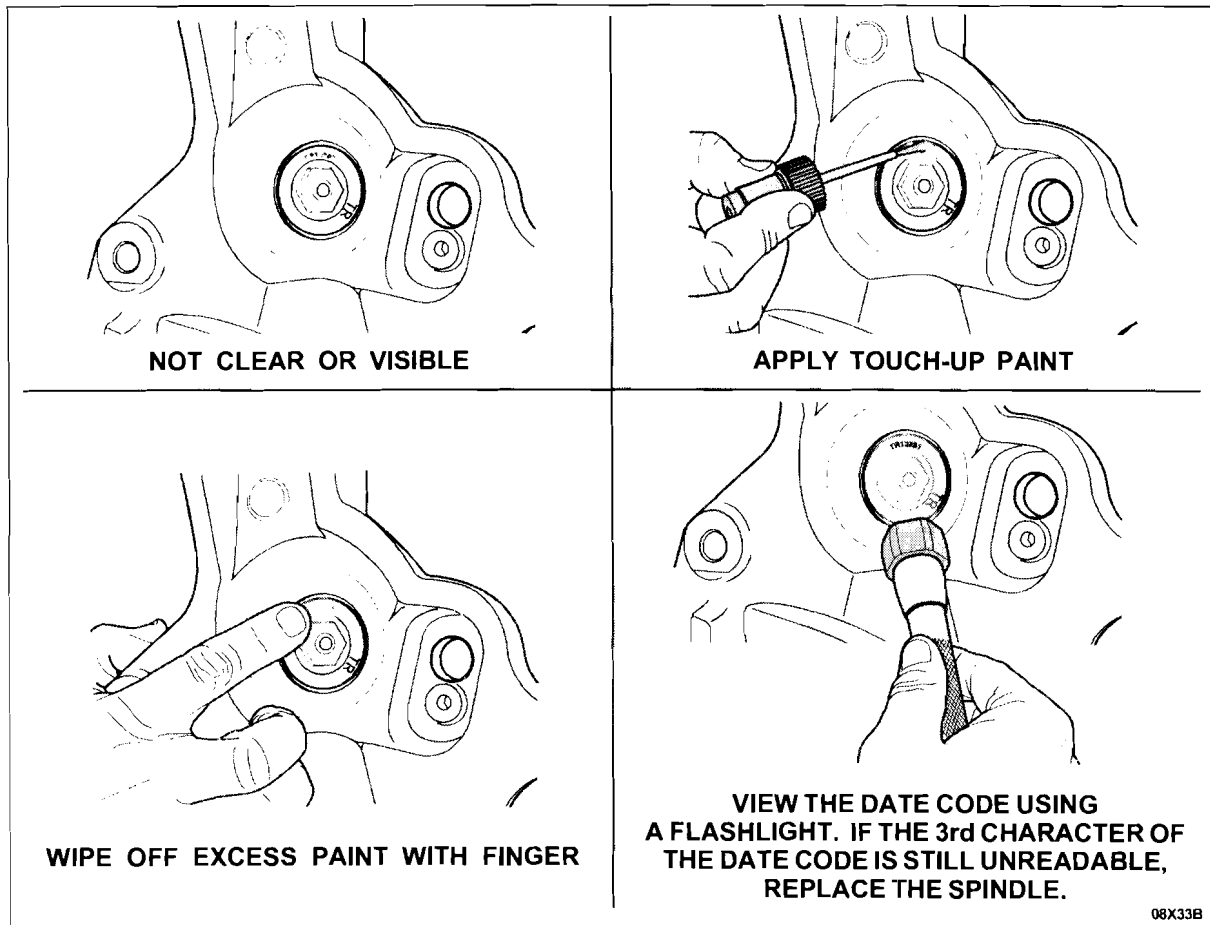


FIGURE 2

4. For the front wheel spindles that require replacement, proceed to the Service Procedure.

SERVICE PROCEDURE

1. For front wheel spindles that require replacement, refer to the WSM, Section 204-01 Wheel Spindle Removal and Installation.
2. Check the alignment, and if necessary, adjust the front toe.
 - The replacement of a front wheel spindle should NOT affect the front camber/caster angles enough to require an adjustment. If the camber/caster measurement is out of the specification, it will be necessary to call the Special Service Support Center for prior approval before any camber/caster adjustments are made.

