



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 22, 2010

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

NVS-215dgl
10V-161

SUBJECT: FRONT DRIVER & PASSENGER SEATS MANUAL RECLINERS

DEAR MR. VONDALE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's (Ford) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 202, "Head Restraint," and that a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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/EXPLORER/2010
FORD/EXPLORER SPORT TRAC/2010
FORD/FUSION/2010
MERCURY/MILAN/2010
MERCURY/MOUNTAINEER/2010

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-161

Mfg's Report Date: April 16, 2010

Components: SEATS: FRONT ASSEMBLY: RECLINER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 33,256

Summary:

FORD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2010 FUSION, EXPLORER, EXPLORER SPORT TRAC, AND MERCURY MILAN AND MOUNTAINEER VEHICLES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN DECEMBER 15, 2009 THROUGH FEBRUARY 3, 2010 EQUIPPED WITH FRONT SEAT MANUAL RECLINERS. THESE VEHICLES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 202, "HEAD RESTRAINT." THE RECLINER GEAR PLATE TEETH MAY BE OUT OF DIMENSION SPECIFICATION WHICH COULD RESULT IN LIMITED PAWL TO GEAR PLATE TOOTH ENGAGEMENT.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE SEATBACK AND HEAD RESTRAINT MAY MOVE REARWARD, INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE MANUAL RECLINERS FOR BOTH POWER AND MANUAL SEATS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FORD AT 1-866-436-7332.

Notes:

FORD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS 10C11. CUSTOMERS 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).

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.

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

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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 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, or through the office email at 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 read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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