



Steve M. Kenner, Global Director
Automotive Safety Office
Sustainability, Environment & Safety Engineering

Fairlane Plaza South, Suite 400
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738 USA

November 4, 2011

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W45-306
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis

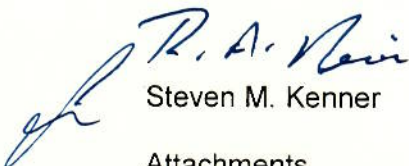
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 11S22 – Certain gasoline mid-ship fuel tanks used for service on 2004 through 2008 Model Year Econoline vehicles.

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall to replace certain gasoline mid-ship fuel tanks used for service on certain 2004 through 2008 model year Econoline vehicles.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 17 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation - Ford's service fuel tank supplier shipped to Ford dealers mid-ship fuel tanks with an extraneous OBDII sensor hole on the top of the tank. Fuel tanks are shipped with a shipping plug in the OBDII sensor hole that is not intended for installation in a vehicle. Dealers were not provided instructions regarding inspection and plugging of the sensor hole, so actions taken by dealers will vary. Ford is not aware of any leaks or fires related to this condition.
- Service Procedure - Ford contacted dealers and obtained VINs for vehicles that had tanks installed or customer information on tanks that were sold to 3rd party shops or individual customers. Owners will be notified and instructed to take their vehicle or tank to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the fuel tank replaced or exchange the fuel tank if not installed.

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

Sincerely,


Steven M. Kenner

Attachments



49 CFR PART 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
11S22 – 2004 THROUGH 2008 MODEL YEAR FORD ECONLINE VEHICLES GASOLINE MID-SHIP FUEL TANK USED FOR SERVICE

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 2004 through 2008 model year Ford Econoline vehicles with service part mid-ship gasoline fuel tanks produced in August 2011.

Because this action affects service parts, we typically cannot provide VIN specific information. However, Ford was able to identify either the VINs or customers, and is providing the list of VINs in Attachment II.

The fuel tanks for the affected vehicles were assembled by the Buckley MFG CO at their facility in the United States.

The Buckley MFG CO contact person is:

Quality Manager
Mike Strotman
513.821.4444
Buckley Mfg. Co.
10333 Wayne Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45215 USA

573.6 (c) (3) - Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 17 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.

573.6 (c) (4) - Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition

100%

573.6 (c) (5) - Description of the Defect

Ford's service fuel tank supplier shipped to Ford dealers mid-ship fuel tanks with an extraneous OBDII sensor hole on the top of the tank. Fuel tanks are shipped with a shipping plug in the OBDII sensor hole that is not intended for installation in a vehicle. Dealers were not provided instructions regarding inspection and plugging of the sensor hole, so actions taken by dealers will vary. Ford is not aware of any leaks or fires related to this condition.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

On September 8, 2011 a Ford dealer notified Ford's Customer Service Division (FCSD) that the mid-ship service fuel tank shipped to them was not the correct part. The dealer described the fuel tank as having an extra hole in the upper shell. Ford Engineering and Supplier Technical Assistance (STA) were notified and started an investigation with the supplier. After inspecting the part and reviewing the service part history and engineering drawings, it was determined the supplier had mis-built the fuel tank for the part number specified by the Ford dealer. On September 29, 2011 Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) was notified. Ford's STA continued analysis of the supplier process and part shipping data to identify the quantity of mis-built mid-ship fuel tanks shipped to Ford's part service depots and the subsequent dealers that received the mis-built parts.

On October 14, 2011, a Technical Review Committee was held to review engineering and production data.

On October 27, 2011, the Field Review Committee reviewed the issue and approved a field action.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Mailing of owner notification letters to owners of vehicles known to have tanks installed will occur on November 14, 2011. Dealers who received mis-built tanks have been directed to return them. If any of these tanks are now sold, Ford will mail owner notification letters on November 28, 2011.

Notification to dealers occurred on November 4, 2011.

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 service part warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers.

573.6 (c) (10) - Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

National media attention is likely as with most Ford recalls when posted to NHTSA's safecar.gov website. Ford will provide public comments when requested. A news release will not be issued. 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 11S22 to this action.

VIN LIST
11S22
