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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

March 5, 2012

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. 12S28 – Certain 2011 Model Year Ford F-650 and F-750 trucks with air brakes and traction control built with the Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) ATR-6 Traction Relay Valve for an internal air leak

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is providing this notice of a defect in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.3(f) based on a Bendix determination of a defect related to certain ATR-6 traction relay valves that may not operate correctly in temperatures at or below zero degrees F. Certain 2011 model year Ford F-650 and F-750 trucks with air brakes and traction control are potentially affected.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 352 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Ford was notified by Bendix on February 10, 2012, that it had made a determination that a safety defect exists in certain ATR-6 traction relay valves supplied to multiple original equipment vehicle manufacturers, including Ford. In a January 26, 2012 letter to the agency, Bendix indicated that certain suspect traction relay valves were produced with a change to the valve. According to Bendix, "In extremely cold conditions (at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit / -18 degrees Celsius), internal leakage can potentially develop, resulting in pressure being delivered to the affected service brake circuit. If the solenoid armature lifts off, air pressure is delivered to the primary or secondary brake circuits, causing intermittent or - in isolated cases - continuous brake application. During the brake application, ABS will still be operational and service brakes are still available." Ford Motor Company has not independently evaluated the effect on the vehicle; however, Ford concurs with Bendix's recommendation. Ford is not aware of any reports relating to this condition on Ford vehicles.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford dealer for installation of a Bendix ATR-6 traction relay valve repair kit. Ford will notify dealers on March 6, 2012, to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles.

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
12S28 – CERTAIN 2011 MODEL YEAR FORD F-650 AND F-750 TRUCKS WITH BENDIX
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SYSTEMS LLC ATR-6 TRACTION RELAY VALVE

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 2011 Ford F-650 and F-750 trucks with air brakes and traction control built at the Escobedo Assembly Plant from December 3, 2010 through December 20, 2011.

Certain 2004-2011 F-650 and F-750 Vehicles with Air Brakes and Traction Control that were serviced with a Bendix ATR-6 Relay Valve from December 3, 2010 through January 31, 2012. Dealers have been instructed to return unsold inventory of service valves from the suspect population.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information. However, in this instance Ford is able to provide the specific VIN list – see Attachment II.

The traction relay valves for the affected vehicles were assembled by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC at the Acuña, Mexico facility.

The Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC contact person is:

Rafael Dominguez
Director, Quality and Product Safety
Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
901 Elyria, Ohio 44035
(440) 329-9131

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

Approximately 352 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.

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

Unknown.

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

Ford was notified by Bendix on February 10, 2012, that it had made a determination that a safety defect exists in certain ATR-6 traction relay valves supplied to multiple original equipment vehicle manufacturers, including Ford. In a January 26, 2012 letter to the agency, Bendix indicated that certain suspect traction relay valves were produced with a change to the valve. According to Bendix, "In extremely cold conditions (at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit / -18

degrees Celsius), internal leakage can potentially develop, resulting in pressure being delivered to the affected service brake circuit. If the solenoid armature lifts off, air pressure is delivered to the primary or secondary brake circuits, causing intermittent or - in isolated cases - continuous brake application. During the brake application, ABS will still be operational and service brakes are still available." Ford Motor Company has not independently evaluated the effect on the vehicle; however, Ford concurs with Bendix's recommendation. Ford is not aware of any reports relating to this condition on Ford vehicles.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On January 31, 2012 Ford Motor Company was notified by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC that a potential defect exists in Bendix ATR-6 traction relay valves. On February 10, 2012 Ford received a letter from Bendix of their submission of a defect notification to NHTSA (NHTSA number 12E-001) concerning certain ATR-6 traction relay valves that were produced with a change that may allow an internal air leak in the valve at low ambient temperatures. This air leak can result in air pressure being delivered to the affected service brake circuit which can cause intermittent or - in isolated cases - continuous brake application. Ford then proceeded to gather vehicle production data.

On February 27, 2012, Ford's Field Review Committee (FRC) reviewed the issue and approved a field action.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford dealer for installation of a Bendix ATR-6 traction relay valve repair kit. Ford will notify dealers on March 6, 2012, to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur during the week of April 23, 2012. Notification to dealers occurred on March 6, 2012.

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

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.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners to the agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) – Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 12S28 to this action.