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April 2, 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:

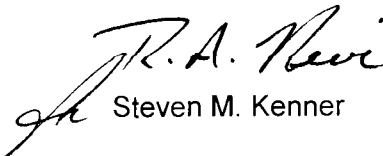
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 12S29 – Certain 2012 model year Focus vehicles for passenger side wiper motor connector susceptible to contamination/corrosion

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2012 model year Focus vehicles that may have a passenger side wiper motor connector susceptible to contamination and/or corrosion over time.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 140,310 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – During installation of the wiring harness connector to the passenger side wiper motor on certain 2012 Focus vehicles built at the Michigan Assembly Plant (MAP), a plug in the connector may have become expelled. Water or other contaminants may accumulate in the connector, resulting in an intermittent or inoperative passenger side wiper motor. The driver side wiper uses a separate motor that does not use a plug within the connector and is not susceptible to this condition. As of March 22, 2012, Ford is not aware of any reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the passenger side wiper motor connector inspected, cleaned and properly sealed as necessary. Any inoperative wiper motors will be replaced.

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

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT  
12S29 – CERTAIN 2012 FOCUS VEHICLES – PASSENGER SIDE WIPER MOTOR  
CONNECTOR SUSCEPTIBLE TO CONTAMINATION/CORROSION

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 2012 Focus vehicles built at Michigan Assembly Plant (MAP) from August 1, 2010 to October 18, 2011.

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 dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

The passenger side wiper motor wiring harnesses, which includes the connector, for the affected vehicles were assembled in Lear's facility in Honduras.

The Lear contact person for this component is:

Thomas Morgan  
Program Manager  
Phone 248-447-1046

Lear Corporation  
21557 Telegraph Rd  
Southfield, MI 48033

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

Approximately 140,310 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

During installation of the wiring harness connector to the passenger side wiper motor on certain 2012 Focus vehicles built at the Michigan Assembly Plant (MAP), a plug in the connector may have become expelled. Water or other contaminants may accumulate in the connector, resulting in an intermittent or inoperative passenger side wiper motor. The driver side wiper uses a separate motor that does not use a plug within the connector and is not susceptible to this condition.

As of March 22, 2012, Ford is not aware of any reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

### 573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On October 18, 2011 an assembly line operator at MAP noted that the plug which is used to seal the unused 4th cavity of the wiring harness connector on the passenger side wiper motor, became dislodged (either partially or fully separated) during installation of the connector to the motor. The potential for plug dislodging during installation appeared dependent on the assembly line operator and the amount of force used during installation.

Investigation by Ford and Lear, the wiring harness supplier, found that the plug selected for this connector may not always withstand the pressures that could be attained during the assembly process at MAP, in this application.

Lear conducted testing on partially dislodged plugs and confirmed that they continue to fully seal the cavity.

A survey was conducted on 2012 Focus vehicles from a broader build range, which found approximately 8% of the plugs missing. None of these vehicles exhibited wiper motor concerns.

As of March 9, 2012, Bosch, the wiper motor supplier, had identified 28 passenger side wiper motors that have been returned from warranty that exhibit signs of connector contamination or corrosion.

Although the number of reports of inoperative wiper motors is low, the potential that any wiper motor with a missing seal plug could be affected by water or contamination led Ford to direct this concern to the Field Review Committee.

On March 26, 2012, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern 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 or Lincoln dealer to have the passenger side wiper motor connector inspected, cleaned and properly sealed as necessary. Any inoperative wiper motors will be replaced.

There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur on May 21, 2012. Notification to dealers will occur on April 3, 2012.

In accordance with Part 573.13(d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this concern 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 [safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.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 12S29 to this action.

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