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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

July 18, 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. 12S35 – Certain 2013 model year Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L GTDI engines – engine compartment fuel line

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L GTDI engines that have an engine compartment fuel line that may have been damaged during its manufacture.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 9,320 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Certain 2013 Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L GTDI engines have an engine compartment fuel line on which the exterior surface may have been mechanically scored during its manufacture. When subsequently installed onto a barbed connector fitting at the supplier, a scored fuel line may develop a split that can result in a leak.

Ford is not aware of any field reports of fuel leak or fire in the United States on vehicles in customer service. Ford is aware of one field report of a vehicle fire in Canada that may relate to this issue.

- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to stop driving their vehicles and contact a Ford or Lincoln dealer to arrange pick-up of their vehicle. Customers will be provided with a rental vehicle if needed. The dealer will replace the engine compartment fuel line with a known good line.

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  
12S35 – CERTAIN 2013 ESCAPE VEHICLES WITH 1.6L GTDI ENGINES – ENGINE  
COMPARTMENT FUEL LINE

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 2013 model year Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L GTDI engines built at Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) from October 8, 2011, to July 11, 2012.

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 information for the supplier of the engine compartment fuel line, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below.

Component: Tube Assembly Fuel Supply

Corporate Name of Supplier: TI Group Automotive Systems  
Supplier Address: 507 H. L. Thompson Jr. Drive, Ashley, IN 46705-0397  
Supplier Phone Number: 260-587-6170  
Point of Contact at Supplier: Rob Krieger (Quality Manager)  
Country of Origin for the component: USA

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

Approximately 9,320 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

Certain 2013 Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L GTDI engines have an engine compartment fuel line on which the exterior surface may have been mechanically scored during its manufacture. When subsequently installed onto a barbed connector fitting at the supplier, a scored fuel line may develop a split that can result in a leak.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On June 9, 2012, a Ford employee driving a 2013 model year Escape 1.6L GTDI vehicle from LAP to a holding lot adjacent to the Kentucky Truck Plant (KTP), in preparation for shipping, noticed an engine performance concern as he approached the shipping lot. As the driver parked and exited the vehicle in the shipping lot, an underhood fire was observed. The vehicle



was examined and similar units in Ford's possession were inspected. No cause for the fire could be determined. Ford also undertook a review of field reports and warranty claims to determine if there were any fires on vehicles in customer service; no such reports were found.

On June 18, 2012 a fire occurred on a low mileage customer vehicle in Canada (the one field report of which Ford is aware). This vehicle was also built with the 1.6L GTDI powertrain. Ford began an extensive review of vehicles in Ford's possession to confirm that they were properly assembled and analysis and testing of various underhood components was undertaken to determine potential causes of the fire. Ford continued to search field reports and warranty claims, and no additional reports were found.

During the course of these investigations and analyses, on July 11, 2012, a second vehicle being driven from LAP to KTP by a Ford employee experienced a fire. This vehicle was also built with the 1.6L GTDI powertrain. In all instances, occupants exited the vehicle and no injuries were sustained. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that on July 5, 2012, a vehicle being prepared for shipping was found to have a split engine compartment fuel line which became detached from the fuel damper causing a fuel leak, without a fire.

Engineering analysis subsequently established that the cause of the underhood fires was the leakage of the fuel line.

On July 16, 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 stop driving their vehicles and contact a Ford or Lincoln dealer to arrange pick-up of their vehicle. Customers will be provided with a rental vehicle if needed. The dealer will replace the engine compartment fuel line with a known good line. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will be conducted the week of July 20, 2012. Notification to dealers will occur on July 18, 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 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 12S35 to this action.

In addition, to enhance long term durability of the vehicle, dealers will check for proper attachment of the PCV tube and install additional heat shielding to the turbo charger wiring connectors in the exhaust manifold area of the engine. Neither of these actions is in any way associated with the safety recall, but will be performed while the vehicle is at the dealership for the convenience of our customers.

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