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12V-438
(3 pages)

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

September 4, 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:

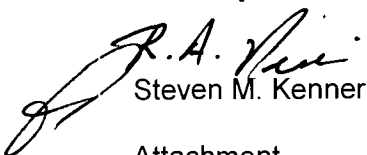
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 12S40 – Certain 2012 model year Ford Edge vehicles equipped with 2.0L engines with fuel leaks originating from a crack in the fuel line pulse damper metal housing

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2012 model year Ford Edge vehicles equipped with 2.0L engines due to fuel leaks originating from a crack in the fuel line pulse damper metal housing.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 5,499 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Fuel line pulse damper metal housings may crack as a result of an improper manufacturing process. Cracked fuel line pulse damper metal housings may result in a combination of fuel odor, weepage, or a continuous leak while the fuel system is pressurized. No accidents, injuries or fires attributed to this condition have been reported to date.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have their vehicle inspected. Vehicles will be reviewed and as necessary, a fuel line sub-assembly, including the fuel line metal pulse damper housing, 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
12S40 – CERTAIN 2012 MODEL YEAR FORD EDGE VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH 2.0L
ENGINES WITH FUEL LEAKS ORIGINATING FROM A CRACK IN THE FUEL LINE PULSE
DAMPER METAL HOUSING

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 model year Ford Edge vehicles equipped with 2.0L engines built at Oakville Assembly Plant (OAP), in Ontario, Canada from September 2, 2010 to October 31, 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 information for the supplier of the metal fuel line pulse damper, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below.

CT43-9S284-BX TUBE ASSEMBLY FUEL VAPOR BUNDLE:

Cooper Standard Automotive FHS INC
4700 INDUSTRIAL ROW PLANT 6
Oscoda, MI 48750
(989) 739-6206
Mr. Duane Pontbriand
United States of America

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

Approximately 5,499 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

Fuel line pulse damper metal housings may crack as a result of an improper manufacturing process. Cracked fuel line pulse damper metal housings may result in a combination of fuel odor, weepage, or a continuous leak while the fuel system is pressurized. No accidents, injuries or fires attributed to this condition have been reported to date.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

In May 2012, Ford engineering was informed by the Tier I fuel/brake bundle supplier that their Tier II supplier had used a non-approved manual process to assemble the two halves of the fuel line pulse damper metal housing, prior to brazing.

Ford investigated the unintended consequences of the non-approved manual process on the pulse damper metal housing. It was determined that the non-approved manual process can cause the internal radius to collapse, creating a stress riser. Ford engineering conducted a review of warranty, service parts and vehicles in the Ford management evaluation fleet. A total of 11 warranty claims for fuel leaks were identified. Fracture analysis of returned fuel line pulse damper metal housings identified fatigue cracking at the internal radius due to cyclic loading.

On July 31, 2012, engineering reported the possibility of fuel leaks on certain 2012 model year Edge vehicles equipped with 2.0L engines to the Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG).

On August 27, 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 their vehicle(s) inspected. Dealers have been instructed to review the sequence number on the fuel/brake bundle assembly tag. If the sequence number falls within the suspected range, or if the technician is unable to read the tag, the fuel line will be replaced. If no service part is available, the owner will be provided a loaner vehicle, until the repair is complete. If the sequence number does not fall within the suspect range, no action is necessary and the vehicle will be returned to the owner. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur during the week of September 24, 2012. Notification to dealers will occur on September 5, 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 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 12S40 to this action.

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