



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 15, 2013

Mr. Steve Kenner
Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive
Suite 400
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

NVS-215KS
13V-081

Subject: Corrosion of Third Row Seat Attachment

Dear Mr. Kenner:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FORD/FREESTAR/2004-2007

MERCURY/MONTEREY/2004-2007

Mfr's Report Date: March 7, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-081

Components:

SEATS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 196,667

Problem Description:

Ford is recalling certain model year 2004-2007 Freestar and Mercury Monterey vehicles manufactured from March 24, 2003, through November 7, 2006, equipped with a third row seat and originally sold in, or currently registered in, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia. The third row stowable seat can experience corrosion and structural degradation at the seat anchor mechanism mounted to the rear wheel wells. As a result of the corrosion, the third row seat may not fully latch into its seating position.

Consequence:

In the event of a vehicle crash, an unlatched seat may increase the risk of personal injury.

Remedy:

Ford will notify owners, and dealers will install new third row seat latch striker mounting brackets, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin on March 27, 2013. Owners may contact Ford Motor Company Customer Relationship Center at 1-866-436-7332.

Notes:

Ford's recall campaign number is 13S01. Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

This recall was the subject of a Engineering Analysis, EA12-003, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

We note that your report states that Ford does not believe that the corrosion of the third row seat attachment presents an unreasonable risk or that these vehicles contain a safety defect. In our view, this statement has no force or effect in terms of Ford's obligation to undertake and complete the recall and NHTSA does not agree with it.

We have received Ford's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement