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March 4, 2013

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:

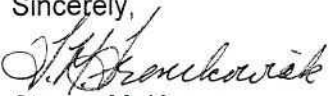
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 13S02 – Certain 2013 model year Ford Focus, C-Max, and Escape vehicles – Driver Side Child Lock

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 model year Ford Focus, C-Max, and Escape vehicles potentially built with an incorrect child lock component installed in the driver side rear door lock.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 5,675 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – On certain vehicles, the left rear door child lock may have been built incorrectly. As a result, the child lock may not engage when the operator uses normal turning force to activate the child lock, and the operator may incorrectly believe the child lock is engaged. Without the child lock engaged, the door can be opened using the inside door handle. This condition could potentially increase the risk of injury to an unrestrained child. In all cases the rear door latch requires two operations to unlock and unlatch the door when the rear door lock is in its locked position.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the driver side child lock inspected and, if necessary, the rear door latch replaced.

The detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report is attached.

Sincerely,

for 
Steven M. Kenner
Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
13S02 – CERTAIN 2013 MODEL YEAR FORD FOCUS, C-MAX, AND ESCAPE VEHICLES -
DRIVER SIDE CHILD SAFETY LOCK

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 Ford Focus and C-Max vehicles built at the Michigan Assembly Plant (MAP) from November 16, 2012, to November 21, 2012, and certain 2013 model year Ford Escape vehicles built at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) from November 14, 2012, to November 21, 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 rear door lock, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below.

Rear Door Lock:

Supplier Name: Brose, NA
Supplier Address: 3933 Automation Avenue, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Supplier Telephone Number: 248-339-4801
Supplier Contact: Jim Barbaretta
Country of origin for the component: Mexico

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

Approximately 5,675 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

The Tier III supplier of child lock actuation cams provided a shipment of parts with mixed stock. The mixed stock contained both the intended cams, as well as cams intended for another latch supplier.

In all cases the rear door latch requires two operations to unlock and unlatch the door when the rear door lock is in its locked position.

Ford is not aware of any accidents or injuries associated with this condition.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On November 20, 2012, during a standard MAP vehicle production check that is performed on every vehicle, a rear door was able to be opened when the child lock was thought to be activated. Ford issued a stop ship for vehicles at MAP and began an internal review. An additional functional check of the child locks on all vehicles still at the assembly plant was undertaken. During the review it was determined that the same child locks are utilized in the rear door latches used at LAP. LAP was notified of the condition and also issued a stop ship.

On December 11, 2012, it was determined that observations from vehicle inspections, conducted to evaluate this condition, did not correlate to predictions generated by computer modeling of the condition and that further evaluation was necessary to confirm complete understanding and containment of the condition.

On February 8, 2013, additional variables were identified (e.g., door latch handle activation speed, and ambient temperature) that could intermittently affect the ability to detect this concern through operational checks, putting into question this prior containment action performed at MAP and LAP on the subject vehicles.

On February 25, 2013, 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 driver side child lock actuation cam visually inspected and if necessary, the driver side rear door latch replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will begin the week of March 25, 2013. Notification to dealers will occur on March 5, 2013.

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 13S02 to this action.

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