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13V-230
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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

May 28, 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. 13S05 – Certain 2013 model year Lincoln MKZ vehicles equipped with engine block heaters – electrical cord insulation cracking

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 model year Lincoln MKZ vehicles equipped with an engine block heater to replace the 120 volt AC electrical cord that connects to the block heater.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 107 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – On 2013 model year Lincoln MKZ vehicles, usage of the engine block heater requires the customer to open the hood, un-stow and re-stow the electrical cord. This may result in significant bending and stress of the cord. If this bending occurs in temperatures below -20°C, the wiring insulation may crack, potentially exposing the electrical wires. Exposed wires increase the risk for electric shock and corrosion. Because the cord is encapsulated in a protective sleeve, the exposed electrical wires may not be apparent to the customer.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the block heater cord replaced.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. M. Kenner".

for Steven M. Kenner
Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
13S05 – CERTAIN 2013 LINCOLN MKZ VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AN ENGINE BLOCK
HEATER – ELECTRICAL CORD INSULATION CRACKING

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 Lincoln MKZ vehicles built at the Hermosillo Stamping and Assembly Plant (HSAP) from April 25, 2012, to March 15, 2013, and equipped with an engine block heater.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information. However, in this instance Ford is able to provide the specific VIN list – see Attachment II.

The information for the supplier of the block heater cord, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below:

Calix Automotive AB
PO Box 5026
Eskilstuna, Sweden
Postal Code 630 05
Supplier Phone Number: 46 161 08000
Country of Origin for the component: Sweden

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

Approximately 107 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

On 2013 model year Lincoln MKZ vehicles, usage of the engine block heater requires the customer to open the hood, un-stow and re-stow the electrical cord. This may result in significant bending and stress of the cord. If this bending occurs in temperatures below -20°C the wiring insulation may crack, potentially exposing the electrical wires. Exposed electrical wires increase the risk for electric shock and corrosion. Because the cord is encapsulated in a protective sleeve, the exposed electrical wires may not be apparent to the customer.

There are no reports of accident, injury, or fire related to this condition.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On March 13, 2013, Engineering informed HSAP personnel that MKZ block heater cords were being supplied with insulation that did not meet Ford's cold weather performance specification. A Stop Ship was issued on March 13, 2013, to further evaluate the condition.

On March 19, 2013, the condition was reviewed in Ford's Critical Concern Review Group. Further evaluation was recommended, particularly related to the amount of cord manipulation required under normal and potentially abusive usage, and how this usage affected the cord insulation performance at cold temperatures. Engineering began testing the cold weather performance of the original cord and insulation material under different usage conditions, including manipulation of the cord.

A Technical Review Group reviewed the results of the engineering evaluations on May 10, 2013.

On May 20, 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 block heater cord replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will be completed the week of June 17, 2013. Notification to dealers will occur on May 30, 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 13S05 to this action.

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VIN List for 13S05

3LA6L2G9XDR800003	3LN6L2J99DR811565	3LN6L2G93DR814047
3LA6L2LU2DR800023	3LN6L2JK9DR811553	3LN6L2G95DR814048
3LA6L2GK8DR800035	3LN6L2JK9DR811567	3LN6L2G96DR811546
3LA6L2LU0DR800022	3LN6L2G90DR811560	3LN6L2G96DR814060
3LA6L2GK1DR800037	3LN6L2G92DR811558	3LN6L2GK4DR811533
3LA6L2J96DR800038	3LN6L2G92DR811561	3LN6L2JK0DR814003
3LA6L2JK2DR800041	3LN6L2G94DR811559	3LN6L2G92DR814864
3LA6L2J97DR800016	3LN6L2G95DR811540	3LN6L2G99DR813985
3LA6L2J90DR800049	3LN6L2G96DR811532	3LN6L2GK4DR814027
3LA6L2GKXDR800005	3LN6L2G96DR811563	
3LA6L2LU3DR800029	3LN6L2G99DR811525	
3LA6L2LU6DR800025	3LN6L2GK0DR814056	
3LA6L2JK3DR800050	3LN6L2GK3DR811524	
3LA6L2JK4DR800042	3LN6L2J94DR811554	
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3LA6L2JK9DR800019	3LN6L2J96DR812222	
3LA6L2JKXDR800014	3LN6L2J97DR811550	
3LA6L2LU4DR800024	3LN6L2JK5DR812179	
3LA6L2LU7DR800048	3LN6L2JK6DR811557	
3LN6L2JK6DR800140	3LN6L2JK6DR814023	
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3LN6L2G94DR811562	3LN6L2JK6DR813986	
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3LN6L2GK3DR811507	3LN6L2LU6DR814005	
3LN6L2J92DR812217	3LN6L2LUXDR812158	