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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. 13S06 – Certain 2013 model year Ford Fusion vehicles – Steering Gear

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 model year Ford Fusion vehicles for potential mis-built steering gears.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 20 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Certain 2013 model year Ford Fusions have been equipped with steering gears that may be missing an internal retaining clip. If the clip is missing, components inside the steering gear may migrate inside the gear assembly, potentially resulting in impaired steering control.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the steering gear 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 black ink that reads "S. M. Kenner".

sa Steven M. Kenner
Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
13S06 – CERTAIN 2013 FORD FUSION VEHICLES – STEERING GEAR

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 Ford Fusion vehicles built at the Hermosillo Stamping and Assembly Plant (HSAP) from April 19, 2013, to April 23, 2013.

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 steering gear assembly, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below:

ZF Steering Systems LLC
Supplier Address: 15 SPIRAL DRIVE, Florence, KY 41042
Supplier Phone Number: 859.689.6891
Point of Contact at Supplier: Mike Hirsch
Country of Origin for the component: United States

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

Approximately 20 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 model year Ford Fusions have been equipped with steering gears that may be missing an internal retaining clip. If the clip is missing, components in the steering gear may migrate inside the gear assembly, potentially resulting in impaired steering control.

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

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On or about April 23, 2013, the manufacturer of the steering gear used in 2013 Ford Fusions notified Ford that some steering gears were produced during a certain time period with their error proofing system inactive. The error proofing system is intended to verify proper installation of the internal retaining clip. With the error proofing system inactive, proper installation of these clips cannot be verified.

On April 25, 2013, Ford implemented a Stop Ship.

On May 23, 2013, Ford became aware that a total of 20 vehicles may have been delivered to dealers.

Since the proper installation of the retaining clips in the steering gear cannot be verified, in an abundance of caution, on May 24, 2013, Ford's Technical Review Group reviewed the issue and Ford's Field Review Committee approved a field service action.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

Dealers will be notified on May 30, 2013, to not deliver vehicles with a suspect steering gear to customers until the steering gears in the vehicles are replaced.

Mailing of owner notification letters will be completed during the week of June 3, 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 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 13S06 to this action.

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