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September 30, 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:

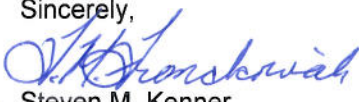
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) recall No. 13C07 - Certain 2012 through 2013 Model Year Focus Electric and 2013 C-MAX Equipped with Intelligent Access Push Button Start System

Summary:

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary recall involving certain 2012 through 2013 Focus Electric and 2013 model year C-MAX models to address an FMVSS 114 compliance matter.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 23,000 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Description of Non-Compliance - Ford and the agency have engaged in an ongoing dialogue regarding the compliance of these vehicles with respect to FMVSS 114 Section 5.1.3 (Theft Prevention). In the affected vehicles, there is no audible chime when the electronic key code remains in the ignition and the driver's door is opened. Both Ford and the agency recognize that this section of FMVSS 114 as currently written may not apply to keyless ignition systems as it does to keyed ignition systems. In its recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for FMVSS 114, the agency stated that "[t]he original logic of S5.1.3(b) (i.e., applying to motor vehicles with all types of keys and starting systems) was that if the engine were running, then the driver must have intentionally left the key behind. However, with keyless ignition systems, it is not obvious to the driver that s/he has left the 'key' (the electronic code) behind." NHTSA is proposing to exclude keyless ignition systems from S5.1.3(b) in recognition that, as currently written, many vehicles equipped with keyless ignition systems are not required to provide an audible warning. The agency also noted that, "[m]any manufacturers currently choose to sound this alarm regardless of whether they use a physical or electronic key in the vehicle." While the applicability of this section of FMVSS 114 to keyless ignition systems is ambiguous, Ford desires to harmonize with the agency on its interpretation and will conduct a notification and remedy campaign to add a "key in ignition" door chime to address the agency's question with respect to the requirements of FMVSS 114 Section 5.1.3 (Theft Prevention). Ford is reporting this issue in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573.
- Service Program - Ford will notify dealers to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until the continuous "key in ignition" door chime can be added. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln dealer for the software revision.

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 - NON-COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT
13C07 - 2012 THROUGH 2013 MODEL YEAR FOCUS ELECTRIC AND 2013 C-MAX EQUIPPED
WITH INTELLIGENT ACCESS PUSH BUTTON START SYSTEM

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-Compliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) submits the following information concerning a potential non-compliance to the requirements of section 5.1.3 (Theft Prevention) of FMVSS 114 for certain 2012 through 2013 Model Year Focus Electric and 2013 C-MAX vehicles.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Certain 2012 through 2013 Model Year Focus Electric vehicles built from Job #1 through April 24, 2013, and certain 2013 C-MAX with Intelligent Access Push Button Start System built from Job #1 through April 24, 2013, at the Michigan Assembly Plant are potentially affected.

Because 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.

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

Approximately 23,000 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.

573.6 (c) (4) - Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition

100%

573.6 (c) (5) – Non-Compliance Description

In the interest of Ford's consistent cooperation with the agency, Ford will conduct a notification and remedy campaign to add a "key in ignition" door chime to address the agency's question with respect to the requirements of FMVSS 114 Section 5.1.3 (Theft Prevention). Ford is reporting this issue in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573.

Ford is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this subject.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

- March 4, 2013: Ford received a communication from the NHTSA's Office of Vehicle Safety and Compliance (OVSC) with questions regarding the operation of the 2013 Focus Electric during certain portions of their FMVSS 114 compliance test procedure.
- March 11, 2013: Ford and OVSC discuss the basic operation of the Intelligent Access (IA) key system in these vehicles. OVSC inquired whether Ford could develop an engineering tool to display electronic key status for use on their test vehicle at General Test Laboratories (GTL).
- April - May, 2013: Ford and agency personnel conducted a joint vehicle review at the agency's test facility (GTL) to evaluate the electronic key status during various portions of the agency's FMVSS 114 test procedure. In addition, Ford had ongoing follow-up dialogue with OVSC representatives regarding specific questions about the electronic key status during various vehicle functions.

- June - July, 2013: Ford initiated a WebEx meeting with NHTSA OVSC representatives to have further discussion regarding the operation of Ford's IA system and submitted a response to the agency's request for information.
- August 1, 2013: Ford received an information request from the agency with additional, detailed questions relating to the operation of Ford's IA system in these vehicles. Clarification was later provided by the agency that Ford's response to most of the requests was due by September 17, 2013, and that Ford's responses to the remaining few questions was due by October 1, 2013.
- September 17, 2013: Ford submitted a partial response to the agency's August 1, 2013 request for information.
- September 30, 2013: Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the issue and, although it was not determined that a non-compliance to FMVSS 114 Section 5.1.3 existed in these vehicles, a field action was nevertheless approved.

573.6 (c) (7) - Basis of Non-Compliance Determination

While the applicability of this section of FMVSS 114 to keyless ignition systems is ambiguous, in the interest of Ford's consistent cooperation with the agency, Ford will conduct a notification and remedy campaign to add a "key in ignition" door chime to address the agency's question with respect to the requirements of FMVSS 114 Section 5.1.3 (Theft Prevention). Ford is reporting this issue in accordance with the defect notification requirements specified in 49 CFR Part 573.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Ford will notify dealers to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until the continuous "key in ignition" door chime can be added. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln dealer for the software revision. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur by November 22, 2013. Notification to dealers will occur by October 1, 2013.

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. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded to the agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 13C07 to this action.

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