



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 11, 2014

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

NVS-215KS
14V-164

Subject: Welds on Seat Assemblies may Fail/FMVSS 207

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/C-MAX/2013-2014
FORD/ESCAPE/2013-2014
FORD/FUSION/2013-2014
LINCOLN/MKZ/2013-2014

Mfr's Report Date: March 31, 2014

NHTSA Campaign Number: 14V-164

Components:

SEATS:FRONT ASSEMBLY:RECLINER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 43,135

Problem Description:

Ford Motor Company (Ford) is recalling certain model year 2013-2014 Ford Fusion and Lincoln MKZ vehicles manufactured August 15, 2012, through September 10, 2013, 2013-2014 Ford Escape vehicles manufactured June 5, 2012, through August 12, 2013, and 2013-2014 Ford C-Max vehicles manufactured from July 23, 2012, through May 28, 2013. The driver and passenger seatback assemblies may have been produced with sub-standard weld joints used to attach the seat back recliner mechanism to the seat frame. The affected seat backs may have insufficient strength to meet the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 207, "Seating Systems."

Consequence:

The back of the subject seats may become loose or lean while driving and potentially increase the risk of injury in certain crashes.

Remedy:

Ford will notify owners, and dealers will replace the seatback, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin around May 19, 2014. Owners may contact Ford at 1-800-392-3673. Ford's number for this recall is 14C03.

Notes:

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.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

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,



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