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By Recall Management Division at 11:03 am, May 07, 2014

14V-237
(3 pages)



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 5, 2014

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) 2013-2014 Model Year Ford Escape and C-MAX
Safety Recall #14S04

In accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Non-compliance Information Reports, please find the applicable information regarding Ford Motor Company's voluntary safety recall #14S04

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. M. Kenner for".

Steven M. Kenner
Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
14S04 – CERTAIN 2013-2014 ESCAPE AND C-MAX VEHICLES EQUIPPED
WITH SAFETY CANOPY SYSTEM™

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 2013-2014 model year Escape and C-MAX vehicles equipped with Safety Canopy System™, and built at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) from October 5, 2011, to February 14, 2014, and the Michigan Assembly Plant (MAP) from January 19, 2012, to February 24, 2014, respectively.

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 Restraints Control Module (RCM), that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below.

Restraints Control Module:

Robert Bosch, LLC
15000 Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
Christer Jansson
(734) 979-4730
Country of Origin: Mexico

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

Approximately 594,785 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.

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

100%.

573.6 (c) (5) – Description of the Defect

The Restraint Control Module (RCM) supplier inadvertently reversed polarity in the low-g, Z-axis (vertical axis) sensing configuration file. This sensing parameter is utilized in the deployment of the Safety Canopy System™ on the 2013-2014 Escape and C-MAX vehicles. As a result, the deployment of the safety canopy may be delayed in certain rollover circumstances, potentially increasing the risk of injury.

No warranty, customer complaints, or injuries have been reported to date as a result of the subject condition.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

January 2014: During development of a forward model program, the RCM supplier engineering team detected a reversed polarity in the low-g, Z-axis sensing configuration file. Ford engineering was asked to determine the safety effect of the reversed polarity on vehicles equipped with the Safety Canopy System™.

February-March 2014: Ford analyzed and evaluated the design and determined that while it was fully compliant with all regulatory and Ford internal full-vehicle testing requirements, in certain rollover test scenarios, the effect of the reverse in polarity could be that Z-axis acceleration might not be sufficient to deploy the safety canopy as quickly as intended.

April 2014: Even though all regulatory and Ford internal dynamic full-vehicle testing requirements were fully met, on April 28, 2014, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action to reprogram the RCM to design intent.

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 reprogram the RCM to the latest level. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur the week of May 26, 2014. Notification to dealers will occur on May 7, 2014.

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 14S04 to this action.

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