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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 27, 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) Certain 2010 Through 2014 Model Year Ford
Taurus Vehicles Safety Recall No. 14S08

In accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Non-Compliance
Information Reports, please find attached the applicable information regarding Ford
Motor Company's voluntary safety recall 14S08.

Sincerely,

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

Steven M. Kenner

Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
14S08 – CERTAIN 2010 THROUGH 2014 MODEL YEAR TAURUS VEHICLES LICENSE
PLATE LAMPS

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 2010 through 2014 model year Ford Taurus vehicles built at the Chicago Assembly Plant (CAP) from November 24, 2008, through February 28, 2014, and originally sold in or are currently registered in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

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), clicking on the "Safety Recalls" link at <http://www.ford.com>, 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 license plate lamp assembly, that is the subject of this defect report, is provided below.

License Plate Lamp Assembly:

Corporate Name of Supplier: Hella Automotive Mexico S.A. de C.V.
Supplier Address: Carretera a el Castillo
Km. 10.5
El Salto, Jalisco
C.P. 45680
Guadajajara, Mexico
Supplier Phone Number: 52-33-3478-4158
Point of Contact at Supplier: Daniel Colunga
Country of Origin for the Component: Mexico

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

Approximately 183,425 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

When vehicles are operated in high-corrosion environments associated with road salt use, corrosive moisture ingress in the lamp can lead to an electro-chemical reaction and corrosion.

The electro-chemical reaction and corrosion can bridge the positive and negative terminal plates creating a short circuit in the lamp that causes high current draw, excessive heat and potentially a fire.

Ford is aware of 18 reports of fire, and five reports of smoke or melting associated with this condition. One of the reports includes an allegation of a minor injury when the operator reported putting out the fire with their hand. All the reports were from corrosion states which have heavy snow and heavy use of road salt.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

In early 2011, Ford began investigating reports of fires around the rear license lamp area on 2010 and 2011 model year Taurus vehicles. A total of eight fires were reported and investigated in early 2011. An engineering analysis of the lamp assembly could not identify a pattern or root cause of the reports. Ford also continued to monitor field data for additional reports. With no identified causal condition and no additional reports for an additional 18 months in service, the issue was closed in October 2012.

During the above investigation, Ford had identified an elevated license plate lamp warranty repair rate, primarily related to inoperative lamps due to corroded terminals. In May 2013 Ford engineering began investigating robustness actions to reduce the incidence of inoperative lamps due to corrosion. A revised lamp was introduced at the end of February 2014.

Field reports were continually monitored, and Ford identified new fire reports from January through March 2014, primarily on 2013 and 2014 model year vehicles. The reports were geographically clustered in corrosion states with heavy snow and substantial use of road salt. A detailed investigation was reopened on March 4, 2014.

On May 9, 2014, based on analysis of returned parts, vehicle inspections, and laboratory testing, Ford's Technical Review Group (TRG) recommended this condition be reviewed by Ford's Field Review Committee.

On May 19, 2014, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a safety field action.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

For vehicles originally sold in or currently registered in corrosion states, owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle(s) to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the license plate lamp assemblies replaced. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to be completed by July 25, 2014. Notification to dealers is planned to occur on May 29, 2014.

Although this corrosion related condition is not expected to exist in non-corrosion states, under a separate program (Ford program 14R01), customers in non-corrosion states will be notified and, at the customer's request, dealers will replace the license plate lamp assembly.

Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall was provided to the agency on February 20, 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.

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 14S08 to this action.

573.13 (c) (2) – Ending Date for Reimbursement Eligibility

The ending date for reimbursement eligibility for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners per Ford's general reimbursement plan is August 8, 2014.

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