

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**16V-111****Manufacturer Name :** Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** FEB 23, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-111**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 16S06**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Ford Motor Company

Address : 330 Town Center Drive

Suite 500 Dearborn MI 48126-2738

Company phone : 1-866-436-7332

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 48,990

Estimated percentage with defect : 0

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2015-2016 Ford Transit

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Affected vehicles are equipped with rear passenger seating

Production Dates : FEB 13, 2014 - JAN 13, 2016

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Rear seat belt buckles in these vehicles are susceptible to end load damage if a heavy object directly impacts the top of the buckle. If these buckles are damaged, the buckle cover may interfere with the normal function of the buckle, which may ultimately prevent the buckle tongue from becoming latched or potentially remaining latched. Depending on the amount of buckle damage, this condition may or may not be obvious to passengers.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If these buckles are damaged, the buckle cover may interfere with the normal function of the buckle, which may ultimately prevent the buckle tongue from becoming latched or potentially remaining latched, increasing the risk of injury in a crash.

Description of the Cause : An analysis of warranty data indicated that the rear seat buckles were susceptible to impact damage. A heavy impact to the top of a seat belt buckle (high end load) may

cause the buckle cover to displace downward and/or rotate relative to the latch mechanism, which may push or break the anti-rattle springs inside the buckle and/or create an interference of the cover with the release button.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The buckle cover may exhibit visible damage. The user may not be able to insert the tongue into the buckle or there may not be an audible click when the tongue is fully inserted into the buckle.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Autoliv North Germany

Address : 25337 Elmshorn

Otto Hahn Strasse FOREIGN STATES

Country : Germany

Chronology :

July – September 2015: Ford engineers were riding in a Transit shuttle bus and noticed that when inserting the seat belt tongue into the buckle, the seat belt would not latch. Vehicle inspections of the Ford shuttle bus fleet were conducted to evaluate seat belt buckles. This topic was introduced into Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. An internal data search was initiated.

October - November 2015: Warranty field return parts were obtained and provided to the supplier in Europe for analysis. A follow-up audit of the Ford shuttle bus fleet visually identified a buckle with a damaged and displaced cover and found that it did not remain latched after inserting the tongue into the buckle. After further evaluation and several attempts, the buckle began functioning properly. This buckle was removed and sent to the supplier for analysis.

December 2015 - January 2016: Part analysis was completed by the supplier and identified that heavy impact to the top of the seat belt buckle (high end load) had caused the outer buckle cover to displace on the samples provided. The supplier conducted additional testing to understand the types of loading conditions (luggage, toolboxes) that could cause damage to the buckles and to assess the potential affect on buckle function. Ford conducted additional testing on several warranty field return parts that were reported to not completely latch or stay latched. The parts were installed in vehicles and driven on various roads with an independent group of passengers that were not aware of the buckle condition or the purpose of the drive. The buckle function was observed.

On February 15, 2016, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Owners will be notified by mail and provided instructions to inspect their rear passenger seat belt buckles, as well as what to do should a damaged buckle be identified. Ford or Lincoln dealers will provide this inspection if

customers have questions or concerns. When repair parts become available, owners will be notified to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the rear passenger seat belt buckles repaired or replaced, as appropriate. There will be no charge for this service.

Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs because the original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Notification to dealers is expected to occur on February 23, 2016. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin March 14, 2016 and is expected to be completed by March 18, 2016.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 23, 2016 - FEB 23, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 14, 2016 - MAR 18, 2016

* NR - Not Reported