

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**16V-183****Manufacturer Name :** Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** MAR 30, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-183**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 16S14**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 : 1,543

Estimated percentage with defect : NR

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2015-2016 Lincoln MKC

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Affected vehicles are equipped with 2.3L GTDI engines and engine block heaters.

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

Production Dates : NOV 25, 2013 - JAN 25, 2016

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2016-2016 Ford Explorer

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Affected vehicles are equipped with 2.3L GTDI engines and engine block heaters.

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

Production Dates : OCT 20, 2014 - JAN 28, 2016

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Affected vehicles may experience overheating of the engine block heater while the vehicle is parked and the block heater is plugged in.

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

Ford is not aware of any fires in the US that are attributed to this condition.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Overheating of the engine block heater in these vehicles may increase the risk of an underhood fire. This risk only exists when the block heater is plugged in and the vehicle is parked.

Description of the Cause : The 2.3L GTDI engine block design in the area of the block heater element, coupled with the unique engine installation angle in these vehicles, and the length of the block heater element used in this application combine to cause these units to be susceptible to block heater overheating, especially if the coolant level is low. This risk only exists when the block heater is plugged in and the vehicle is parked.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : An overheated engine block heater may result in engine coolant leakage. Coolant leakage may be visible under the vehicle, and may also result in illumination of the check engine light. Some customers have reported poor vehicle heater performance, resulting from coolant loss. Heat damage to the electrical connector on the engine block heater can also occur.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Phillips and Temro Industries

Address : 9700 West 74th Street

Eden Prairie MINNESOTA 55344

Country : United States

Chronology :

May-June 2015 An issue pertaining to reports of overheating block heaters in MKC vehicles, including an unsubstantiated report of an underhood vehicle fire in Alberta, Canada, was opened in Ford's Critical Concern Review Group for review. A review of block heater field reports found electrical connector damage, inoperative or damaged elements, and some coolant leaks, but no additional fires. Ford of Canada (FoC) reported the Alberta vehicle was scrapped and not available for inspection or determination of the root cause of the fire. Engineering was requested to review all MKC configurations for potential block heater design and performance differences.

July 2015 It was reported that the block heater on the Alberta vehicle had been serviced prior to the underhood fire. It was thought that the prior repair on this vehicle may have contributed to the fire. Based on the field data and engineering analysis, it was decided to continue monitoring this issue.

Jan 2016 FoC reported an underhood fire on a 2.3L GTDI MKC vehicle in Manitoba that was parked with a block heater plugged in. The root cause for this vehicle fire was undetermined.

Feb-March 2016 Based on their ongoing analysis, Engineering reported that the engine block heater as installed in the 2.3L GTDI engine in these vehicles could be susceptible to overheating if the engine coolant levels are low. Should a vapor pocket develop in the area of the block heater element in the engine block due to low coolant levels, it could reduce the heat transfer from the heating element to the coolant, resulting in high temperatures in the engine block heater element and connector. This could result in leaking coolant, and the risk of a melted connector or fire.

This issue was unique to the particular block heater element design and the particular 2.3L GTDI engine installation angle in 2015-2016 MKC and 2016 Explorer vehicles.

On March 21, 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 instructed to stop using their block heater and to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the engine block heater element replaced with a block heater of different design, and to have the electrical cord inspected, and replaced if required. 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.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers to the agency when available.

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 March 31, 2016. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin May 16, 2016 and is expected to be completed by May 20, 2016.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 31, 2016 - MAR 31, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 16, 2016 - MAY 20, 2016

* NR - Not Reported