

In October 2014, NHTSA and Takata informed Ford that a Honda vehicle involved in a crash in Malaysia had experienced a driver airbag inflator rupture that resulted in a fatality. Honda subsequently recalled the inflator globally. Because the Honda vehicle was equipped with an inflator design that was similar but not identical to the family of inflator used on the Ford Ranger vehicles already included in program 14B04 /14V-343 for passenger inflators, NHTSA asked Ford to additionally recover the vehicle driver airbag inflators at the same time the vehicles were serviced for the passenger airbag inflator recovery. Per the Agency's request, Ford collected SDI driver air bag inflators from 2004 – 2005 MY Ford Rangers that were in the original population of Customer Satisfaction Program 14B04, which applied to vehicles originally sold or registered in Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Virgin Islands. The affected vehicle population was determined by using Takata inflator production dates.

To date, Takata has tested 1,942 SDI driver airbag inflators without incident from 2004 - 2005 MY Rangers.

On January 14, 2016, NHTSA informed Ford that they had received a VOQ reporting a fatality due to a ruptured driver airbag inflator on a North American produced 2006 MY Ford Ranger located in South Carolina and equipped with a Takata airbag inflator. The accident occurred on December 22, 2015, when the driver reportedly hit a cow resulting in an airbag deployment. The VOQ alleged that metal from the airbag inflator canister exploded, struck the driver, and reportedly resulted in the death.

On January 15, 2016, NHTSA requested that Ford make a decision pertaining to the scope of field service action 14B04 / 14V343 in a timely manner.

On January 22, 2016, Ford participated in a vehicle inspection coordinated by NHTSA's Special Crash Investigation team and observed an inflator anomaly in this vehicle. NHTSA requested that Ford file a defect notification based on a defect notification filed by Takata.

On January 22, 2016, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.