

October 2015: Ford's ongoing analysis of warranty and field data identified reports of side door latching concerns on 2012-2015 model year Focus vehicles. This issue was introduced to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review on October 29, 2015.

December 2015 - March 2016: Ford conducted part return analysis and comprehensive data analysis. The field data indicated an elevated rate of reports for vehicles in states with higher ambient temperatures and solar loading, but the rate was low compared to the rate of door latch reports on Fiesta and Fusion vehicles previously recalled in 15S16.

January 7, 2016: Ford's CCRG opened an investigation due to similar reports from 2013-2015 model year Escape vehicles in the Gulf Cooperation Council region and Mexico. Analysis found a low number of reports on Escape vehicles in the US.

March 3, 2016: Received NHTSA IR for PE16-001 that was opened January 16, 2016, on 2012-2013 model year Focus vehicles for doors failing to latch and/or opening while driving due to a door latch failure.

April 14, 2016: Ford responded to the NHTSA inquiry. While a specific root cause had not been identified, Ford's analysis found the majority (89%) of responsive reports were from vehicles operated for an extended period of time in states with high average ambient temperatures and solar loading. The trend in VOQ data was stronger, with 98% of the VOQs coming from these same states.

A door that is not latched should result in warnings to the driver (or other vehicle occupants) such as the door will not close, the interior lights remain on, the door ajar indicator illuminated in the instrument cluster, or the door ajar chime. Based on the significantly lower rate of latch reports, the lack of any accidents, and only one undefined and unsubstantiated injury allegation, Ford did not find an unreasonable safety risk associated with the door latches in these vehicles, but continued its analysis.

April – June 2016: Ongoing analysis of field data and parts did not identify specific production or material variability associated with this issue, but the potential for this variability may still remain. However, the regional pattern remained in the data.

June 23, 2016: Ford continued to discuss the status of its ongoing analysis and reviewed field data with the agency, noting the continuing regional pattern in the data.

July 2016: Ongoing analysis of field data identified an increasing number of reports from states with high ambient temperatures and solar loading on Focus and Escape vehicles equipped with latches manufactured in the supplier's Mexico facility. Ford had subsequent discussions with the agency regarding the more recent field data trend and the continued strong correlation to regions with prolonged exposure to high solar load and high temperatures. Those discussions also considered other vehicles with latches of similar design that were produced at the same supplier facility. Ford and the agency discussed the potential for a regional program that would

address vehicles in high solar load and high temperature regions that the data indicate are particularly susceptible to this condition, as well as coverage for vehicles outside this region.

On July 29, 2016, based on Ford's analyses of the latest field data and discussions with the agency on how to best prioritize vehicles at the highest risk for latch pawl spring tab fractures, Ford's Field Review Committee approved a safety recall. Additionally, in order to address the agency's concerns with vehicles outside the field action, Ford's Field Review Committee also approved an extended warranty program and Ford agreed to continue to monitor door latch related reports from this vehicle population and share updates with the agency.

August 4-26, 2016: As a result of ongoing discussions with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Ford is including all affected vehicles in all 50 states and U.S. Territories in this safety recall at this time.

On September 1, 2016, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.