

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-594

Manufacturer Name : Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** SEP 25, 2017**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-594**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 17S30**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 : 77

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2015 Ford F-650

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : 1) The basis for how the recall population was determined: Ford's team reviewed supplier process and maintenance records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing front axle production to the vehicle in which the front axle is installed.

2) How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Dana axle assemblies that were built to specification are not included in this field action.

Production Dates : MAR 04, 2015 - APR 27, 2015

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2015-2015 Ford F-750

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : 1) The basis for how the recall population was determined: Ford's team reviewed supplier process and maintenance records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing front axle production to the vehicle in which the front axle is installed.

2) How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Dana axle assemblies that were built to specification are not included in this field action.

Production Dates : MAR 04, 2015 - APR 27, 2015

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On certain 2015 F-650 and F-750 vehicles, the castellated nuts and cotter pins for the tie rod on the front axle may not have been torqued to the minimum torque specification. According to Dana's Part 573 Defect Notice to the Agency, "the tie rod may become loose in the steer axle, causing significant auditory warning and/or looseness in steering. If a vehicle operator continues to operate the vehicle in spite of this advanced warning, the tie rod may in rare instances become disconnected from the knuckle." Dana stated that they are aware of one customer complaint of tie rod separation that took place on another OEM's vehicle.

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 the tie rod disconnects from the steering knuckle, the driver may lose the ability to steer the passenger side wheel at low speeds, which could increase the risk of a crash. The driver side wheel will not be affected and will remain connected to the steering system.

Description of the Cause : The castellated nuts attaching the tie rod to the knuckles may not have been properly torqued during assembly of the steer axle at Dana.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : If the tie rod becomes loose in the steer axle, the driver will experience significant auditory warning and/or looseness in steering.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Dana Inc.

Address : 3939 Technology Drive
Maumee OHIO 43537

Country : United States

Chronology :

August 2017: Dana, Inc. notified Ford Motor Company on August 18, 2017 of their part 573 defect notice submission to NHTSA (17E041) that includes steer axles manufactured between March 1 and May 17, 2015 and supplied to Ford through the Blue Diamond Joint Venture, for F-650/750 commercial vehicle application. Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) reviewed the concern. An investigation to determine whether Ford production vehicles received the suspect steer axles from Dana was initiated. Dana was contacted for more information regarding their investigation and evaluation on any claims made by other manufacturers.

September 2017: Based on information provided by Dana, Ford determined that some suspect axles were

potentially installed on certain 2015 model year vehicles, and confirmed that the other suspect axles provided to Ford by Dana were not installed on production vehicles or were installed on vehicles, but the torque was corrected prior to release. Ford initiated an engineering review to assess potential effects of the under torqued castellated nuts on the steer axle for Ford specific applications. Ford identified 77 vehicles that were built with the suspect steer axles identified by Dana.

On September 18, 2017, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field service action.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the castellated nuts and cotter pins on the front axle inspected and properly torqued or replaced as necessary. There will be no charge for this service.

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

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The components involved are not defective; the castellated nuts will be inspected and properly torqued or replaced as necessary. If necessary, knuckles and tie rods will be replaced.

Parts and part numbers of the potential replacement parts are currently being individually identified for each unique VIN, as the replacement parts are unique to the equipped axle.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On May 12, 2015, Dana implemented a DC nut runner torque controlled process for the castellated nut assemble to ensure proper torque.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Notification to dealers is expected to occur on September 26, 2017. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin November 20, 2017 and is expected to be completed by November 24, 2017.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 26, 2017 - SEP 26, 2017

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 20, 2017 - NOV 24, 2017

* NR - Not Reported