

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 20E-061

**Manufacturer Name :** ZF North America, Inc.

**Submission Date :** SEP 22, 2020

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20E-061

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



## Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** ZF North America, Inc.

**Address :** 12001 Tech Center Drive

Livonia MI 48150

**Company phone :** 7348552600

## Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 1,401

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 1 %

## Equipment Information :

**Brand / Trade 1 :** ZF

**Model :** Airbag Inflator

**Part No. :** See Descriptive Info

**Size :** NR

**Function :** NR

**Descriptive Information :** ZF makes this submission based on the recall of vehicles by FCA, Ford, and GM, and as requested by NHTSA. As stated by the vehicle manufacturers, curtain airbags in the recalled vehicles may contain an inflator diffuser that may have been subject to an improper crimping process during manufacturing. The total number of potentially affected parts provided herein may include parts that were contained by vehicle manufacturers.

ZF part nos. include: 34277217A, 34204745A, 34177958C, 34200077B.

**Production Dates :** FEB 21, 2020 - MAR 20, 2020

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** ZF makes this submission based on the recall of vehicles by FCA, Ford, and GM that incorporate improperly crimped inflator diffusers manufactured by ZF. As reported by FCA, Ford, and GM, if present in the vehicle, an affected diffuser may separate from the inflator in the event of a curtain airbag deployment and may compromise the integrity of the airbag or cause the curtain airbag fill time to be delayed. The total number of potentially affected parts provided herein may include parts that were contained by vehicle manufacturers.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** As reported by FCA, Ford, and GM, if an affected diffuser separates from the

Description of the Safety Risk : inflator during deployment, the curtain airbag performance may be degraded, which could increase risk of injury to occupants in the event of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Inflator diffusers built into curtain airbag modules in the recalled vehicles may have been subjected to an improperly positioned crimping operation during manufacturing.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : n/a

## Involved Components :

Component Name : ZF airbag inflator

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : 34277217A, 34204745A, 34177958C, 34200077B

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : ZF Passive Safety Systems

Address : 11202 E. Germann Road  
Mesa ARIZONA 85212

Country : United States

## Chronology :

On March 19, 2020, ZF observed a potential issue related to an airbag inflator diffuser in internal testing. ZF immediately contained potentially affected parts and materials and initiated an investigation. During the same time as the ongoing investigation, ZF operations were temporarily suspended due to COVID-related shutdowns and restrictions. Through the investigation, ZF was able to define a suspect population of inflators that may have been subjected to an incorrect crimping process in production and, based on specific traceability data, identify the airbag modules containing the particular suspect inflators and the customers to which those modules were supplied. On May 1, 2020, ZF notified those customers about the investigation and potentially affected parts. ZF then worked with each vehicle manufacturer in the ongoing investigation with each customer. On June 25, 2020, FCA recalled 114 vehicles. On July 17, 2020, Ford recalled 68 vehicles. On July 30, 2020, GM recalled 769 vehicles. In August 2020, NHTSA and ZF communicated about those recalls, and on August 20, 2020, NHTSA requested that ZF file a part 573 report based on those recalls.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : ZF refers to the vehicle manufacturers' filings for details of the remedy program.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : n/r

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The crimping process was corrected and improvements to the error-proofing system and laser inspection parameters were in place by April 3, 2020. Note that production of the airbag modules incorporating the inflators at issue was shut down due to COVID restrictions at the time, and the issue was corrected prior to the restart of production.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : ZF refers to the vehicle manufacturers' filings for details about the recall schedule for notification.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

**Purchaser Information :**

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Ford Motor Company

Address : 330 Town Center Drive  
Suite 500 Dearborn MI 48126

Country : US

Company Phone : 1-866-436-7332

Name : General Motors LLC

Address : 29427 Louis Chevrolet Road  
Warren MI 48093

Country : US

Company Phone : 586-596-1733

Name : FCA US LLC

Address : 800 Chrysler Drive  
Auburn Hills MI 48326

Country : US

Company Phone : 2485763654

\* NR - Not Reported