

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 20V-217

**Manufacturer Name :** Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** APR 16, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-217**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 20S17**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 : 1,355

Estimated percentage with defect : 40 %

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2020-2020 Ford Expedition

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : NR

**Descriptive Information :** Ford's team reviewed supplier process and maintenance records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing seatbelt buckle production to the time frame of when the seatbelt buckle were installed into vehicles.

The affected vehicles may have seatbelt buckles that were subjected to a faulty quality test and that may have damaged the seatbelt buckle internal belt tension sensor.

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 27, 2019 - DEC 07, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

**Description of the Defect :** On some of the affected vehicles, the front passenger seatbelt buckle's Belt Tension Sensor (BTS) may miscommunicate with the Occupant Classification Sensor and mis-classify an occupant.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** A malfunctioning BTS may mis-classify the front passenger seat occupant for purposes of restraint system function. In some circumstances, this

malfunction may not be detected and the air bag light may not illuminate. Occupant misclassification may result in passenger injury in the event of a crash.

**Description of the Cause :** The BTS supplier inadvertently applied 24V to the BTS during an electrical continuity test instead of 12V. This application of 24V could potentially damage the BTS internal resistor.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** In most cases, the air bag indicator lamp would illuminate in the instrument cluster if the belt tension sensor malfunctioned. However, in some circumstances, this malfunction may not be detected and the air bag light may not illuminate.

### Involved Components :

**Component Name 1 :** Seat Belt Buckle Assembly - Medium Stone  
**Component Description :** Expedition Front Passenger Seatbelt Buckle  
**Component Part Number :** JL1Z-7861202-AH

**Component Name 2 :** Seat Belt Buckle Assembly - Ebony  
**Component Description :** Expedition Front Passenger Seatbelt Buckle  
**Component Part Number :** JL1Z-7861202-AG

### Supplier Identification :

#### Component Manufacturer

**Name :** ZF Passive Safety US Inc.  
**Address :** Brecha E-99 No. 202  
Industrial Maquiladora Reynosa FOREIGN STATES 88787  
**Country :** Mexico

### Chronology :

**January-March 2020**  
On January 9, 2020, Restraints Engineering brought an issue pertaining to 2020 model year Expedition air bag light illumination to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant has experienced periodic quality rejects in December, 2019 regarding a faulty seatbelt buckle. Subsequently reviews with the component supplier had identified a potential component quality issue on a small number of

passenger side Belt Tension Sensors (BTS) that could result in a miscommunication with the Occupant Classification Sensor, raising occupant classification concerns.

Upon review, the supplier indicated that a quality issue had occurred during product changeover at a riveting station and occurred from November 12-26, 2019. This quality issue involved a mis-wired test-connector that applied 24V to the BTS during the electrical continuity test instead of the intended 12V. Application of 24V could potentially damage the BTS internal resistor. Due to the varying degree of potential damage to the BTS internal resistor, the supplier did not detect every damaged BTS with its end-of-line testing.

A review of 3,590 seatbelt buckles built from November 12-26, 2019 identified 1,513 suspect parts. Review of 3,577 seatbelt buckles built from November 7-11, 2019 and November 27-30, 2019 did not identify any suspect parts.

CCRG's review included evaluation of potential compliance concerns, potential fall-out rate, test results, and warranty claims pertaining to this subject. Test results found that a malfunctioning BTS may mis-classify the front passenger seat occupant and that, in some circumstances, this malfunction may not be detected and the air bag light may not illuminate. Occupant misclassification may result in passenger injury in the event of a crash.

On April 1, 2020, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action. Ford is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.

## 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 front passenger seatbelt buckle replaced. 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 :** Dealer technicians will remove the suspect seatbelt buckle and replace it with a new, undamaged seatbelt buckle in accordance with the Workshop Manual.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** Quality checks of seat belt buckles built from November 7-11, 2019 and November 27-30, 2019 did not identify a damaged sensor out of 3,577 checked, establishing the suspect population.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Notification to dealers is expected to occur on April 17, 2020. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin May 11, 2020 and is expected to be completed by May 15, 2020.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** APR 17, 2020 - APR 17, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 11, 2020 - MAY 15, 2020

\* NR - Not Reported