



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 15, 2021

Mr. Adrian Diaz
Assistant Engineering Director Automotive Safety Office
Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive
Suite 500/5024
Dearborn, MI 48126

NEF-107DM
21V-158

Subject: Driver's Air Bag Inflator May Explode

Dear Mr. Diaz:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FORD/EDGE/2007-2010
FORD/FUSION/2006-2012
FORD/RANGER/2007-2011
LINCOLN/MKX/2007-2010
LINCOLN/MKZ/2006-2012
LINCOLN/ZEPHYR/2006-2012
MERCURY/MILAN/2006-2011

Mfr's Report Date: March 11, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21V-158

Components:

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE:INFLATOR MODULE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2,602,668

Problem Description:

Ford Motor Company (Ford) is recalling certain 2007-2011 Ranger, 2006-2012 Fusion, Lincoln Zephyr, Lincoln MKZ, 2006-2011 Mercury Milan, 2007-2010 Ford Edge, and Lincoln MKX vehicles. The driver's side air bag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling.

Consequence:

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants, resulting in serious injury or death.

Remedy:

Ford will notify owners, and dealers will replace the driver-side airbag inflator or module with an alternate one, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin April 1, 2021. Owners may contact Ford customer service at 1-866-436-7332. Ford's number for this recall is 21S12.



Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We note that your report states that Ford believes this matter does not have a safety risk. In our view, this statement has no force or effect in terms of Ford's obligation to undertake and complete the recall, and NHTSA does not agree with it.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Ford Motor Company's contact for this recall will be DeMara Magruder who may be reached by email at demara.magruder@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement