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August 18, 2021

**TO:** All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Dealers

SUBJECT: NEW VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD - Advance Notice -

Safety Recall 21S32

Certain 2013-2017 Model Year Explorer Vehicles

Rear Toe Link Replacement

# **AFFECTED VEHICLES**

Vehicle	Model Year	Assembly Plant Build Dates		
Explorer	2013-2017	Chicago	September 4, 2012 through September 30, 2017	
		Elabuga	January 28, 2013 through July 28, 2017	

Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS and FSA VIN Lists.

**Note**: In the United States this recall only affects vehicles that are registered, have ever been registered, or were sold in the following corrosion states.

In the United States						
Connecticut	Delaware	Illinois	Indiana	lowa		
Kentucky	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan		
Minnesota	Missouri	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York		
Ohio	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	Vermont	Virginia		
West Virginia	Wisconsin	District of Columbia				

#### **REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL**

Some of the affected vehicles exposed to a highly corrosive environment where road salt is used extensively during winter months, have experienced a seized toe link ball joint resulting in a fracture of the outboard section of the rear suspension toe link. A seized toe link ball joint can increase bending stresses in the toe link outboard of the turnbuckle. Rear toe link fracture while driving could result in unusual vehicle handling characteristics, or difficulty controlling the vehicle and may increase the risk of a crash.

# **SERVICE ACTION**

DO NOT DEMONSTRATE OR DELIVER any new in-stock vehicles involved in this safety recall. A complete Dealer Bulletin will be provided to dealers by the end of the fourth quarter 2021 when it is anticipated that parts ordering information and repair instructions will be available to support this safety recall.

IMPORTANT: Dealers should open a Repair Order (RO) only when a full dealer bulletin is published. Opening an RO against an Awareness or Advance Notice will result in warranty rejections against a recall.

### **CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION**

Owners of affected vehicles will be notified beginning the week of August 23, 2021, that parts are not currently available to perform this recall. Owners will be re-notified that parts are available after dealers have received service repair and parts ordering information.

# **PLEASE NOTE:**

Federal law requires dealers to complete this recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$21,000 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory prior to delivery.

# **QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE**

For questions and assistance, contact the Special Service Support Center (SSSC) via the SSSC Web Contact Site. The SSSC Web Contact Site can be accessed through the Professional Technician System (PTS) website using the SSSC link listed at the bottom of the OASIS VIN report screen or listed under the SSSC tab.

Sincerely,

David J. Johnson