

## 22S35

### **Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination**

**Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision.**

#### October - December

On October 14, 2021, an issue pertaining to F-Super Duty steering wheel clock spring warranty was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. NHTSA had contacted Ford in July 2021 regarding certain information contained in Ford's 1Q2021 TREAD Early Warning Report (EWR). CCRG subsequently analyzed the same EWR data and found the majority of reports related either to the clock spring or the Steering Column Control Module (SCCM).

Engineering investigation found that dust ingress into the steering wheel assembly could result in increased friction at the clock spring ribbon/cable connector that rotates with the steering wheel. This ribbon cable provides electrical power to a variety of switch controls on the steering wheel (e.g. radio) as well as the driver airbag. Certain field return parts exhibited partial disconnection of the ribbon cable affecting the steering wheel switch controls and illumination. Other field return parts exhibited complete disconnection of all of the ribbon cable circuits.

#### December - March

CCRG continued its statistical analysis of the field data and reviewed the effect on vehicle operation. Symptoms associated with this subject were found to be progressive beginning with noise (popping or clicking). If allowed to progress and affect the ribbon cable connection, the ribbon cable connector would initially begin to disconnect at the side that controls switches on the steering wheel (e.g. radio controls and horn). Customer reports typically noted loss of switch illumination or loss of radio control or horn functionality, for example. Because the airbag controls are at the opposite end of the ribbon cable connector, airbag function would only be affected if the ribbon cable connector were to completely disconnect. Under this condition an airbag would not deploy if commanded. The airbag warning lamp would also illuminate.

Ford identified approximately 11,200 reports on 2016MY vehicles pertaining to an airbag light and/or associated DTC B0001 received between July 20, 2015 and December 10, 2021. A search found no accidents or injuries related to this issue.

#### April

Ford conducted its statistical analyses and statistical projections.

On **May 6, 2022**, 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.

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