Part 573 Safety Recall Report 23V-071

Manufacturer Name : Ford Motor Company
Submission Date : FEB 10, 2023
NHTSA Recall No. : 23V-071
Manufacturer Recall No. : 23S04

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 : 1,159
Estimated percentage with defect : 85 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2023-2023 Ford Transit
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : ALL
Power Train : GAS
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 fuel tank production to the vehicle in which the fuel tank is installed. Affected vehicles are equipped with suspect 95L fuel tanks.

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 03, 2022 - NOV 10, 2022
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The fuel tank grade vent valve may not be properly welded to the fuel tank shell. Over time, the weld between the grade vent valve and the fuel tank shell may separate, which may ultimately lead to a fuel vapor leak or liquid fuel leak.
FMVSS 1 : NR
FMVSS 2 : NR
Description of the Safety Risk : An inadequate weld between the grade vent valve and the fuel tank shell may be insufficient to prevent a fuel leak during a crash. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source increases the risk of a fire.
Description of the Cause : The fuel tank supplier incorrectly installed a thermocouple on the fuel tank

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	welding equipment causing the welder platen to overheat, resulting in an inadequate weld. If the grade vent valve weld were to separate over time, a check engine light for detection of a vapor leak may illuminate. The customer may also observe a fuel odor or liquid fuel leak.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Description :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Part Number :	LK41-9K007-AG/AH

Component Name 2 :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Description :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Part Number :	LK41-9K007-BG/BH

Component Name 3 :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Description :	Fuel Tank Assembly
Component Part Number :	LK41-9K007-EG/EH

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	Plastic Omnium Auto Inergy (LLC)
Address :	2710 Bellingham Dr. Suite 400 Troy Michigan 48083
Country :	United States

Chronology :

November 2022

On November 17, 2022, Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) initiated an investigation into the quality of the weld between the fuel tank shell and the grade vent valve on 2023 model year Transit vehicles equipped with 95L fuel tanks. On November 9, 2022, the supplier discovered an issue with weld quality after there was a

quality check test failure. The supplier discovered that the thermocouple on the welder hot plate was incorrectly installed after an October 30, 2022 maintenance event, causing the hot plate temperature to intermittently exceed the specified set point. This can result in improper material adhesion.

Ford began collecting samples from the suspect population for analysis to better understand the weld integrity of the grade vent valve.

December 2022 – January 2023
Ford's CCRG continued to investigate the scope of the weld quality issue and impact to vehicle operation. Ford Engineering conducted a series of tests to quantify the quality of the weld between the grade vent valve and the fuel tank shell on suspect parts. The CCRG evaluation found that approximately 85% of the fuel tanks tested had an inadequate weld between the tank shell and the grade vent valve when tested to an industry-standard weld integrity test. Based on these test results, CCRG concluded that the lack of weld strength in this location would make it prone to fuel leaks, including those that occur in a crash.

Ford is not aware of any warranty or field reports related to this condition.

On February 3, 2023, 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 their fuel tank replaced. There will be no charge for this service. Ford provided the general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall in May 2021. The ending date for reimbursement eligibility is estimated to be April 14, 2023. Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers to the agency when available.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	The replacement fuel tank shell (LK4Z-9002-T and LK4Z-9002-X) contains a grade vent valve properly welded to the fuel tank shell.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	Not required per 49 Part 573.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Notification to dealers is expected to occur on February 13, 2023.

	Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin March 27, 2023 and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2023.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	FEB 13, 2023 - FEB 13, 2023
Planned Owner Notification Date :	MAR 27, 2023 - MAR 31, 2023

* NR - Not Reported