

23C35 Chronology

On August 28, 2023, an issue pertaining to 2020-2023MY Mustang brake fluid level warning system was brought into Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review after this issue was discovered by the Ford Customer Service Division (FCSD) in South Korea. In reviewing this issue, the CCRG learned that the Body Control Module (BCM) is responsible for configuring the interface to the brake fluid level sensor. The BCM conducts diagnostics on that interface and will illuminate the red brake warning indicator when there is an issue. In the 2018 - 2023MY Mustang, the brake fluid sensor is hard-wired to the BCM. For 2020MY, the BCM design on the Mustang was changed from "Gen1" to "Gen1m" and was incorrectly configured to look for a Controller Area Network (CAN) message from the brake fluid sensor instead of the hardwired message.

September – October 2023: Ford's BCM and Brake Development teams conducted a read-across of all Ford programs and concluded that this BCM issue is only present on 2020-2023MY Mustang. The read across also confirmed that the brake system was changed and the BCM is configured correctly for the 2024MY Mustang. The Brake Development team tested 2019 – 2024MY Mustangs to the requirements in Section 5.5 of FMVSS No. 135, which requires each vehicle "have one or more visual brake system warning indicators, mounted in front of and in clear view of the driver, which meet the requirements of S5.5.1 through S5.5.5." When tested, the 2020 – 2023MY Mustang vehicles do not meet these requirements with respect to low fluid level diagnostics only. The testing showed that the 2024 MY Mustang does meet those requirements. The 2020 – 2023MY vehicles meet all other requirements for brake system warning lamp illumination.

Ford reviewed FMVSS 135 certification test data from the 2018MY Mustang, which indicates the brake fluid level warning system was working properly. Based on Ford's review, the Brake Development team did not originally run certification tests on the 2020 - 2023MY Mustang because the brake system was carryover and the Brake Development team was not aware that the BCM configuration parameter was incorrectly set to "CAN".

As of September 12, 2023, Ford is aware of 123 warranty claims alleging a loss of brake fluid on these vehicles; however, there were no reports of an inoperative brake fluid level sensor.

On October 20, 2023, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is not aware of any accidents or injuries relating to this condition.