U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 25V344

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Submission Date: May 23, 2025
NHTSA Recall No.: 25V344
Manufacturer Recall No.: 25S55

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Address: 330 Town Center Drive
Suite 500
Dearborn MI, 48126-2738

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 154
Estimated percentage with defect: 20%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2025-2025 FORD TRANSIT
Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles
Product Type:
Fuel / Propulsion:
Production Dates: Mar 07, 2025 - Mar 17, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 15
Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed plant records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing engine production to the vehicle in which the engine is installed. Affected vehicles are equipped with a 3.5L engine that may have a mis-machined connecting rod.

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.

15 Ford Transit vehicles are affected.

Vehicle 2: 2025-2025 FORD F-150
Product Category: Light Vehicles
Product Type:
Fuel / Propulsion:
Production Dates: Feb 26, 2025 - Mar 10, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 135
Descriptive Information:

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Ford's team reviewed plant records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing engine production to the vehicle in which the engine is installed. Affected vehicles are equipped with a 3.5L engine that may have a mis-machined connecting rod.

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.

135 Ford F-150 vehicles are affected.

Vehicle 3: 2025-2025 FORD EXPLORER

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Feb 28, 2025 - Feb 28, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 4

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed plant records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is capable of tracing engine production to the vehicle in which the engine is installed. Affected vehicles are equipped with a 3.3L or 3.5L engine that may have a mis-machined connecting rod.

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.

4 Ford Explorer vehicles are affected.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Engines in affected vehicles may have a mis-machined connecting rod, which may result in a connecting rod cap failure, a connecting rod bearing failure or a connecting rod bolt failure.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

Connecting rod cap, bearing or bolt failure may lead to reduced motive power while driving, followed by an engine stall, increasing the risk of a crash. After the stall, the engine may not crank or restart.

Description of the cause:

A connecting rod spot face machining tool was installed incorrectly, allowing the tool to spin and

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degrade, and resulting in improperly machined spot face areas. Over time, the lack of sufficient bolt head clearance at the spot face can cause connecting rod cap deformation and fatigue on components within the connecting rod assembly.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

An audible bottom-end knock noise would occur following a connecting rod bearing failure. However, there are no audible or visual warnings that a driver would perceive following a connecting rod cap or bolt failure.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: 1 American Road
Dearborn MI, 48126

Country: United States

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Machined Connecting Rod

Component Description: Machined Connecting Rod

Component Part Number: HL3E-6200-B8B

Chronology

On April 3, 2025, an issue pertaining to mis-machined connecting rods on 3.3L and 3.5L engines was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Group for review following the rejection of mis-machined rods at engine assembly workstations at Cleveland Engine Plant (CEP) on February 25, 2025. Essex Engine Plant (EEP), who supplied the mis-machined rods, determined a rod spot face tool had been installed incorrectly, allowing the tool to spin and degrade, and resulting in improper machining during two shifts on February 9 and 10, 2025. The suspect connecting rods were shipped from EEP to CEP and Lima Engine Plant (LEP).

From February 24 to March 7, 2025, some suspect rods were assembled into engines at CEP and LEP and were subsequently shipped to Dearborn Truck Plant (DTP), Chicago Assembly Plant (CAP), and Kansas City Assembly Plant (KCAP), and were installed in vehicles. On March 4, 2025, Ford issued a stop ship to contain suspect units.

Beginning March 8, 2025, Ford conducted dynamometer durability tests on three engines with mis-machined connecting rods. Based on the results of these tests and computer-aided engineering (CAE) analysis, Ford concluded that a mis-machined connecting rod may result in the eventual failure of the connecting rod bearing, connecting rod bolts or the connecting rod cap itself, any of which may lead to catastrophic engine failure.

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During April and early May, the Ford team analyzed parts handling and manufacturing logistics data to define the engine production timeline, including confirmation using p-chart analysis and a two-proportions test, and identified the population of suspect engines. Using engine serial number (ESN) traceability, the affected assembly plants have determined the population of vehicles which may contain suspect connecting rods.

As of May 7, 2025, Ford is not aware of any warranty claims, field reports, or customer complaints related to this concern.

On May 16, 2025, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is not aware of any vehicle accidents, vehicle fires, or injuries related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type:

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

The remedy is under development. When the remedy is available, owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the remedy performed. There will be no charge for this service.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The remedy is under development.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Not required per 49 Part 573.

Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Notification to dealers is expected to occur on May 27, 2025. Mailing of interim owner notification letters is expected to begin June 6, 2025 and is expected to be completed by June 13, 2025. Mailing of

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remedy owner notification letters is not yet known as the remedy for this recall is still under development. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is May 27, 2025.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: May 27, 2025 - May 27, 2025 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: Jun 09, 2025 - Jun 13, 2025 ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: ☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: May 27, 2025