



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

**1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590**

July 15, 2026

26E045

Nick Englund
Tenneco Automotive
3000 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20007

Subject: Loss of Steering

Dear Nick Englund:

This letter serves to acknowledge Tenneco Automotive's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Brand/Model/Part Number:
NAPA/TIE ROD END

Mfr's Report Date: July 10, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26E045

Components:
STEERING:LINKAGES:TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 5,290

Problem Description:
Tenneco Automotive (DRiV) is recalling certain NAPA steering inner tie rod ends, part number 269-3813 sold as replacement parts for 2013-2018 Ford C-Max, 2013-2019 Escape, and 2012-2018 Focus vehicles. The tie rod end stud may separate, causing a loss of steering.

Consequence:
A loss of steering increases the risk of a crash.

Remedy:
Dealers will replace the inner tie rod end, free of charge. Owner notifications are expected to be mailed August 28, 2026. Owners may contact DRiV customer service at 1-877-489-6659 or by email at recall.support@driv.com.



Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-888-275-9171), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Tenneco Automotive's contact for this recall will be Kristin Lepper who may be reached by email at kristin.lepper@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement