



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 09, 2026

26V121

Tom Single
Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive
Suite 500
Dearborn, MI 48126

Subject: Passenger-Side Headlight Malfunction/FMVSS 108

Dear Tom Single:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company'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.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FORD/EXPLORER/2025-2026

Mfr's Report Date: March 03, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26V121

Components:

EXTERIOR LIGHTING:HEADLIGHTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 35,772

Problem Description:

Ford Motor Company (Ford) is recalling certain 2025-2026 Explorer vehicles. The Dynamic Bending Light (DBL) system software may cause the passenger-side headlight to turn in the wrong direction when driving through curves in the road. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment."

Consequence:

A headlight that turns incorrectly can result in increased glare to other road users, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

The headlight control module software will be updated by a dealer, or through an over-the-air (OTA) update, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed March 23, 2026. Owners may contact Ford customer service at 1-866-436-7332. Ford's number for this recall is 26C12. Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) involved in this recall became searchable on NHTSA.gov on March 5, 2026.

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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.

Ford Motor Company's contact for this recall will be Dusty Gardner who may be reached by email at dusty.gardner@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

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