U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26E045

Manufacturer Name: Tenneco Automotive
Submission Date: Jul 10, 2026
NHTSA Recall No.: 26E045
Manufacturer Recall No.:

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Tenneco Automotive
Address: 500 North Field Drive
Lake Forest IL, 60045

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 5,290
Estimated percentage with defect: 8%

Equipment Information

Brand / Trade 1: NAPA
Model: 269-3813
Part Number: 269-3813
Type: Replacement
Function / Version: Tie Rod End
Size / Configuration:
Production Dates: Jul 17, 2024 - Nov 17, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 5,290

Descriptive Information:

This recall covers certain NAPA-brand steering tie rod ends intended for replacement installation on MY 2013 -2018 Ford C-Max, MY 2013 – 2019 Ford Escape, and 2012 – 2018 Ford Focus vehicles. The recall population includes only 269-3813 parts that were sold under UPC Code “87526024549.” Other parts with this part number (269-3813) but with different UPC codes are not affected. The scope was determined based upon a review of supplier records. The subject parts were shipped to DRiV’s direct customers beginning approximately September 25, 2024. Parts shipped prior to this date were sourced from a different supplier and are not part of the recall population.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Due to a manufacturing error at the suppliers (Zhejiang Lizhong Chassis Parts Co., Ltd and Vsolution Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd.), certain parts within the recall population may not meet the “stud pullout” specification. As a result, the stud may be susceptible to separation under normal driving conditions.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26E045

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

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

If the stud pulls out of the housing during operation, the vehicle will experience a partial loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

Certain parts within the recall population may not have been produced to specifications.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

A failure may be preceded by noise.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: Other

Name: Zhejiang Lizhong Chassis Parts/VSolution

Address: No. 1 Shanhe Road
Yuhuan Economic Development Zone
Yuhuan, Zhejiang Foreign States, 317602

Country: China

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Steering Inner Tie Rod End

Component Description: Steering Inner Tie Rod End

Component Part Number: 269-3813

Purchaser Information

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26E045

Name: Not Applicable

Address:

Country:

Chronology

June 11, 2026: A NAPA store reported a customer return of a NAPA 269-3813 inner tie rod end (with an unknown date code) that exhibited a torn boot. At the time, it was unclear whether the customer return was prompted by full separation or looseness of the stud from the housing. The installer installed a new NAPA part for the customer, and the new part experienced a separation while backing out of the repair shop. The new part had a 74025170 date code.

June 23, 2026: An installer reported that a customer experienced a failure of the subject part on a vehicle with tow in. The part had been installed for 3 months, with unknown mileage. This part also had a 74025170 date code.

June 25, 2026: As the above failures were being investigated, the DRiV team reviewed warranty/claim records and identified one previous report of a failure in Canada that also involved a part with a 74025170 date code.

The company's investigation of these failures concluded that the failures were caused by an out-of-spec assembly process, which rendered the stud portion of the tie rod end susceptible to separation from the housing under certain loading conditions.

July 2, 2026: Based upon the information developed to date, DRiV decided to initiate a recall of the subject parts.

Although DRiV has not identified the defect in any parts other than parts represented by date code 74025170 (which were manufactured on June 23 and 24, 2025), DRiV will recall all parts produced by this supplier out of an abundance of caution.

There have been no reports of injuries or accidents related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Replace

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Owners will be advised to visit their installer to have the inner tie rod end replaced with new parts provided by DRiV.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26E045

Remedy parts will have a new part number (NCP269-4440). These parts will be confirmed to be produced within specification and/or manufactured after corrective actions were implemented by the supplier or otherwise.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

As of June 25, 2026, all inventory of this part has been quarantined. The supplier has advised that it has implemented corrective action for future production.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:
See Recall-Specific Reimbursement Plan uploaded for this recall.

Period of reimbursement:

Costs to be reimbursed:

Address for reimbursement claims:

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Notification letters will be sent to DRiV's customer (NAPA) per the "Dealer Notice" date range. DRiV will notify owners who purchased the recalled parts directly from DRiV, if any, per the "Owner Notification" date range. The timing of additional owner notifications is dependent upon coordination with NAPA.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Sep 07, 2026 - Sep 07, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Sep 07, 2026 - Sep 07, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall