



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V159

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Submission Date: Mar 17, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V159

Manufacturer Recall No.: 26C18

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Total number of potentially involved: 561

Estimated percentage with defect: 1%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2020-2026 LINCOLN AVIATOR

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: May 09, 2019 - Feb 12, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 362

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed assembly plant records to determine the population of affected vehicles. Affected vehicles were sent to in-plant repair stations for inspection/repair of rear seat belt lower anchor bolt secures that may have been improperly completed. The Ford process is capable of identifying individual vehicles sent to repair.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information.
362 Lincoln Aviator Vehicles are affected

Vehicle 2: 2020-2026 FORD EXPLORER

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Jun 10, 2019 - Jan 21, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 199

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed assembly plant records to determine the population of affected vehicles. Affected vehicles were sent to in-plant repair stations for inspection/repair of rear seat belt lower anchor bolt

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secures that may have been improperly completed. The Ford process is capable of identifying individual vehicles sent to repair.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information.

199 Ford Explorer Vehicles are affected

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

The vehicle's left second row lower anchor and/or right second row seatbelt lower anchor may be improperly secured to the vehicle body.

FMVSS1: 210 - Seat belt assembly anchorages

FMVSS2:

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

An improperly secured seatbelt may inadequately restrain an occupant in a crash, increasing the risk of injury.

Description of the cause:

Seat belt lower anchors may not have been properly secured due to an incomplete/improper repair in the vehicle assembly plant.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

Customers may notice a rattle noise caused by a seat belt lower anchor that is not secure.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Ford

Address: One American Road
Dearborn MI, 48126

Country: United States

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Outer Belt Assembly Screw

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Component Description: Second Row Outer Seat Belt Assembly Screw

Component Part Number: W505275-S439

Chronology

On **January 28th, 2026**, Ford's Trends and Early Warning (TEWS) team notified Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) of a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) from the owner of a model year 2025 Ford Explorer vehicle. The VOQ documented a right rear seat belt lower anchor bolt that was not installed at the time of manufacturing.

On **February 10th, 2026**, the CCRG opened an investigation into this concern. The investigation team's review of assembly plant error proofing and in-plant repair data identified characteristics of the subject vehicle's assembly record indicative of a potential improper repair at the Chicago Assembly Plant (CAP). To determine the recall population, the investigation team reviewed additional plant error proofing and repair data to identify vehicles with similar characteristics as the VOQ vehicle.

On **March 10th, 2026**, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

As of **March 10th, 2026**, Ford is aware of 3 warranty reports of improper or potential improper seat belt assembly for these vehicles. Ford is not aware of any accidents or injuries attributed to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Repair, Replace

Consumer Advisories: Do Not Drive Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the second row outboard seat belt lower anchor bolts inspected and secured or replaced as required. There will be no charge for this service.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The second row outboard seat belt lower anchor bolts (W505275-S439) will be torqued to specification.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Not required per 49 Part 573.

Reimbursement Plan

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Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule**Description of recall schedule:**

Notification to dealers is expected to occur on March 19th, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin March 23rd, 2026, and is expected to be completed by March 27th, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is March 19th, 2026.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Mar 19, 2026 - Mar 19, 2026 No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Mar 23, 2026 - Mar 27, 2026 Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Mar 19, 2026