



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V202

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Submission Date: Mar 31, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V202

Manufacturer Recall No.: 26S22

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Total number of potentially involved: 55

Estimated percentage with defect: 5%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2026-2026 LINCOLN AVIATOR

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 20, 2025 - Dec 18, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 5

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed assembly plant records to determine the population of affected vehicles. Affected vehicles have instrument panels that were assembled without the aid of a production line electronic tool. The Ford process is capable of identifying individual vehicles assembled in this manner.

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

5 Lincoln Aviator Vehicles are affected

Vehicle 2: 2026-2026 FORD EXPLORER

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 19, 2025 - Jan 12, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 50

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed assembly plant records to determine the population of affected vehicles. Affected vehicles have instrument panels that were assembled without the aid of a production line electronic tool. The Ford process is capable of identifying individual vehicles assembled in this manner.

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Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order, and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information.
50 Ford Explorer Vehicles are affected

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Affected vehicles are equipped with an HVAC system which may become inoperable.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

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

An inoperable HVAC system may prevent proper windshield defrost and defogging capability. This may decrease the driver's visibility under certain driving conditions, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

The HVAC system blower motor electrical ground joint may not have been properly secured during instrument panel assembly.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

The driver may experience a loss of air flow into the cabin through the HVAC system.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: One American Road
Dearborn MI, 48126

Country: United States

Involved Components

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Component Name 1: Ground Screw

Component Description: Ground Screw

Component Part Number: W505255 S450XD

Chronology

On **January 20th, 2026**, an issue pertaining to loose instrument panel joints on a 2026 Ford Explorer vehicle identified in a review of warranty claim data was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) by members of Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant (CAP). The CCRG opened an investigation into this concern. The investigation team's review of assembly plant information identified characteristics of the subject vehicle's assembly record indicative of an intermittently disabled electronic torque tool on the instrument panel (IP) assembly line at CAP. The specific vehicle identified in warranty had an IP that was assembled with manual back up tools in place of the electronic torque tool. To determine the recall population, the team reviewed traceability data to identify vehicles subject to the same process.

On **March 24th, 2026**, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

As of March 24th, 2026, Ford is aware of 4 warranty reports of loose joints from this process on the IP assembly line.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Repair, Inspect

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 all critical instrument panel joints inspected and secured as required. There will be no charge for this service.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The remedy components will be torqued to the correct specification.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Not required per 49 Part 573.

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Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Notification to dealers is expected to occur on April 3rd, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin April 10th, 2026, and is expected to be completed by April 10th, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is April 3rd, 2026.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Apr 03, 2026 - Apr 03, 2026

No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:

No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Apr 10, 2026 - Apr 10, 2026

Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Apr 03, 2026