



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

## Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 26V205

**Manufacturer Name:** Ford Motor Company

**Submission Date:** Mar 31, 2026

**NHTSA Recall No.:** 26V205

**Manufacturer Recall No.:** 26S23

### Manufacturer Information

### Population

**Manufacturer Name:** Ford Motor Company

**Address:** 20000 Rotunda Drive  
Mezzanine  
Dearborn MI, 48124

**Total number of potentially involved:** 278

**Estimated percentage with defect:** 1%

### Vehicle Information

**Vehicle 1:** 2026-2026 FORD EXPLORER

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:** Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

**Fuel / Propulsion:**

**Production Dates:** Feb 17, 2026 - Feb 26, 2026

**Number of potentially involved:** 210

**Descriptive Information:**

Affected vehicles are equipped with 2.3L engines that may be missing a piston pin circlip. Ford's team reviewed engine plant production records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is

capable of tracing engine production to the vehicle in which the engine is installed.

These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific

vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local

Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

210 Explorer vehicles are affected.

**Vehicle 2:** 2026-2026 FORD MUSTANG

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:** Passenger Car

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### Fuel / Propulsion:

**Production Dates:** Feb 20, 2026 - Feb 26, 2026

**Number of potentially involved:** 68

### Descriptive Information:

Affected vehicles are equipped with 2.3L engines that may be missing a piston pin circlip. Ford's team reviewed engine plant production records to determine the population of affected parts. The Ford process is

capable of tracing engine production to the vehicle in which the engine is installed.

These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific

vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local

Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

68 Mustang vehicles are affected.

## Defect / Noncompliance Description

### Description of the defect or noncompliance:

On affected vehicles, one or more of the clips that retain the engine's pistons to their connecting rods may be mis-installed or missing.

**FMVSS1:**

**FMVSS2:**

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

A mis-installed clip may lead to piston failure and engine damage, resulting in a loss of motive power and increasing the risk of a crash.

### Description of the cause:

The equipment used to install piston circlips at the engine assembly plant was misaligned during circlip installation for a period of production.

### Identification of any warning that can occur:

The customer may hear an audible knocking noise that increases over time.

## Component Manufacturer

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**26V205****Tier of Supplier:****Supplier Type:****Name:** Ford Motor Company**Address:** 1 American Road  
Dearborn MI, 48126**Country:** United States

## Involved Components

**Component Name 1:** Long Block**Component Description:** Engine's Long Block - Explorer 2.3L RWD**Component Part Number:** PB5E-6006-AA**Component Name 2:** Long Block**Component Description:** Engine's Long Block - Mustang 2.3L**Component Part Number:** PR3E-6006-BA

## Chronology

On February 24, 2026, manufacturing team members from Ford's Dearborn Engine & Fuel Tank Plant (DEFTP) identified an engine with missing piston circlips during engine teardown performed as part of standard

production audit testing. On March 3, 2026, this was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review.

The investigation team determined the missing circlips resulted from a period of engine production in which the

equipment used to install the clips was misaligned. Additionally, during this period, the error-proofing station

that inspects for circlip presence experienced a broken transducer which prevented the issue from being detected initially. The CCRG and DEFTP team members reviewed engine plant and vehicle assembly plant

production records as part of the investigation to determine the population of engines produced during this time

and the vehicles they were installed in.

As of March 16, 2026, Ford is not aware of any occurrences in the field related to this condition.

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

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

**Related NHTSA Recall Number:**

**Description of Remedy**

**Remedy Type:** Inspect, 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 vehicle's engine inspected for evidence of mis-installed or missing circlips. If evidence is found, the engine's long block will be replaced. There will be no charge for this service.

**How remedy component differs from recalled component:**

The remedy engine long block (PB5E-6006-A\*/ PR3E-6006-B\*) will have piston pin circlips properly installed.

**Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:**

Not required per 49 Part 573.

**Reimbursement Plan**

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

**Recall Schedule**

**Description of recall schedule:**

Notification to dealers is expected to occur on April 2, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin April 14, 2026, and is expected to be completed by April 24, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is April 2, 2026.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date:** Apr 02, 2026 - Apr 02, 2026  No Dealers

**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:**  No Owners

**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Apr 14, 2026 - Apr 24, 2026  Phased Recall

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**Date when VIN will be searchable:** Apr 02, 2026