



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V470

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Submission Date: Jul 21, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V470

Manufacturer Recall No.: 26S53

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Total number of potentially involved: 76,748

Estimated percentage with defect: 100%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2025-2027 FORD EXPLORER

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Nov 24, 2025 - Jun 27, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 62,470

Descriptive Information:

The driver seat motor was introduced into production on November 24, 2025 and was taken out of production on June 27, 2026

Vehicle 2: 2025-2027 LINCOLN AVIATOR

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Nov 24, 2025 - Jun 27, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 14,278

Descriptive Information:

The driver seat motor was introduced into production on November 24, 2025 and was taken out of production on June 27, 2026

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Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Customers may experience unintended and unattended driver seat reclining movement. This can occur while remotely unlocking their doors, remote starting their vehicle, approaching their vehicle in possession of their key fob, or after recalling one of the saved button-activated seat memory positions.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

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

Unintended and unattended reclining of the driver's seat without obstacle detection and/or bounce back could pose a risk of impingement or entrapment of a second-row passenger, increasing the risk of injury.

Description of the cause:

The unintended seat back movement during memory recall is caused by the recline motor incorrectly interpreting the driver seat's position.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

None

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 2

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Shenghuabo Group Co.,Ltd. Shanghai

Address: 898 Baian Rd
Anting Town Foreign States, 201805

Country: China

Tier of Supplier: Tier 2

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Lear Corporation

Address: Parque Industrial Rio Grande
Piedras Negras Foreign States, 26080

Country: Mexico

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Involved Components

Component Name 1: FR ASY FRT ST**Component Description:** FRONT SEAT BACKFRAME STRUCTURE**Component Part Number:** PU5A-S608A14-AGC**Component Name 2:** FR ASY FRT ST**Component Description:** FRONT SEAT BACKFRAME STRUCTURE**Component Part Number:** PU5A-S608A14-AJC

Chronology

On **June 4, 2026**, Ford's Automotive Safety Office (ASO) reviewed an issue pertaining to unexpected reclining of the driver's seat to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. CCRG reviewed a draft dealer communication that had been planned in response to reports of the driver's seat fully reclining without driver input on certain 2026 Model Year (MY) Explorer and Aviator vehicles when the vehicle doors were unlocked.

Ford's investigation determined that this movement was initiated by the seat's memory recall function, which returns the seat to positions previously programmed by vehicle drivers. Although this feature is present across many Ford vehicle lines and model years, the investigation team confirmed that a change in the supplier of the seat recline motor for Aviator and Explorer vehicles, beginning in November 2025, was associated with this condition.

On **June 11, 2026**, the investigation team confirmed that the memory recall function cannot be initiated once the vehicle exceeds 5 KPH (3 MPH), and identified several ways in which memory recall could be initiated remotely, including unlocking or remote-starting the vehicle using a key fob or mobile app, or approaching the vehicle with a programmed key fob. The investigation team also noted that, by design, the seat motor will stall if it encounters an obstacle during movement. CCRG reviewed the stall forces in this condition.

On **June 17, 2026**, CCRG inspected a vehicle exhibiting this condition and determined that unattended full rearward reclining of the driver's seat could result in the seatback contacting the second-row seat, posing a potential entrapment risk and injury hazard to second-row occupants in the vehicle while parked.

CCRG's review confirmed this condition is present only in 2026-2027 MY Explorer and Aviator vehicles equipped with a specific combination of seat motor and control strategy.

As of **June 26, 2026**, Ford is aware of 133 reports from various sources related to this condition. Ford is not aware of any Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs) associated with this condition.

On **July 7, 2026**, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

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Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Disconnect/Disable

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Using the Ford Diagnosis and Repair System (FDRS), dealers will update the Driver's Seat Module (DSM) to disable the memory seat movement of the driver's seat back. As part of a new vehicle sales transaction at a Ford dealership, customers will be asked to sign an acknowledgment form regarding the disablement. Upon completion of this safety software remedy, vehicles will become eligible for a companion Customer Satisfaction Program to replace the motor and restore the seat back memory feature at no cost.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

By disabling the memory seat recline function, this remedy eliminates the potential for unintended seat back movement caused by the module. Customers retain full capability to adjust the seat back manually using the standard power control switches

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 August 25, 2026. Mailing of interim owner notification letters is expected to begin August 31, 2026 and is expected to be completed by September 4, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin October 12, 2026 and is expected to be completed by October 16, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is August 25, 2026.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**26V470****Planned Dealer Notification Date:** Aug 25, 2026 - Aug 25, 2026☐ No Dealers**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:** Aug 31, 2026 - Sep 04, 2026☐ No Owners**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Oct 05, 2026 - Oct 09, 2026☒ Phased Recall**Date when VIN will be searchable:** Aug 25, 2026