



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V581

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Submission Date: Sep 09, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V581

Manufacturer Recall No.: 26S65

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company

Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Total number of potentially involved: 7

Estimated percentage with defect: 100%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2026-2026 FORD EXPLORER

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Aug 02, 2026 - Aug 02, 2026

Number of potentially involved: 7

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed supplier process and maintenance records to determine the population of affected vehicles. The Ford process is capable of tracing passenger airbag production to the vehicle in which the passenger airbag is installed. Affected vehicles are equipped with passenger airbags that contain suspect active vent activation units.

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.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

The active vent of the passenger airbag may not open when intended during a crash that deploys the passenger airbag. If the active vent fails to open, the internal cushion pressure will not decrease as rapidly as designed, resulting in a higher-pressure cushion interacting with an occupant.

FMVSS1:

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26V581**FMVSS2:****Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:**

If the active vent of the passenger airbag does not open when intended, it increases the risk of occupant injury in the event of a crash that deploys the passenger airbag.

Description of the cause:

Certain passenger airbags assembled by the supplier were manufactured with incorrect active vent activation units.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

None

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 2**Supplier Type:** OEM**Name:** Astotec**Address:** Brancovice 350
Brankovice, Vyškov Foreign States, 683 33**Country:** Czech Republic**Tier of Supplier:** Tier 1**Supplier Type:** OEM**Name:** Joyson Safety Systems**Address:** Libramiento Car Sal De Gor #198
Frontera, Coahuila Foreign States, 25610**Country:** Mexico

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Passenger Air Bag Module**Component Description:** Passenger Air Bag Module**Component Part Number:** RB5Z-78044A74-B

Chronology

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On August 7, 2026, an issue pertaining to the 2026 Ford Explorer passenger airbag active vent was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. The passenger airbag supplier informed Ford that the active vent activation unit on the passenger airbag module failed to deploy correctly during a routine lot acceptance (LAT) audit test.

Beginning August 7, 2026, Ford conducted evaluation of the suspect active vent activation units.

On September 1, 2026, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

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

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: 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 passenger airbag module replaced. There will be no charge for this service.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Remedy passenger airbag modules (RB5Z-78044A74-B) were produced with active vent activation units that meet specification.

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 September 14, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin September 25, 2026 and is expected to be completed by September 25, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is September 14, 2026.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**26V581****Planned Dealer Notification Date:** Sep 14, 2026 - Sep 14, 2026☐ No Dealers**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:**☐ No Owners**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Sep 25, 2026 - Sep 25, 2026☐ Phased Recall**Date when VIN will be searchable:** Sep 14, 2026