U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V726

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Submission Date: Nov 02, 2026
NHTSA Recall No.: 26V726
Manufacturer Recall No.: 26C50

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 33,578
Estimated percentage with defect: 100%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2026-2027 FORD EXPLORER
Product Category: Light Vehicles
Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle
Fuel / Propulsion:
Production Dates: Mar 03, 2025 - Oct 23, 2026
Number of potentially involved: 33,578

Descriptive Information:

Ford's team reviewed manufacturing records to identify the affected vehicle population. Affected vehicles were built with unique overhead console hardware and software specific to Ford Explorer Police Interceptor vehicles.

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 overhead consoles may enter a phantom "Global On" condition causing the map lights to illuminate. While in this state, a vehicle occupant would be unable to turn the map lights off. FMVSS No. 101, Section S5.3.4(a), requires that any source of illumination in the front row must have the means to be turned off. In this condition, the individual on/off buttons equipped on these vehicles cannot turn off the map lights when it receives a "Global On" command, which may result in a noncompliance with FMVSS No. 101.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V726

FMVSS1: 101 - Control and displays

FMVSS2:

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

If the overhead map lights remain illuminated without the ability to turn off, this may cause a distraction, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

During the vehicle wake-up sequence, the Power Distribution Box (PDB) performs a routine diagnostic check that produces a brief, low-voltage rise on the interior lighting circuit. The rise in voltage occurs before the overhead console's internal electronics have fully initialized and the overhead console microcontroller can misinterpret the diagnostic check as a 'Global On' command. When this occurs, the overhead map lights remain continuously illuminated and are unable to be turned off.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

None.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: Other

Name: Methode Electronics

Address: Spectrum No. 200 Suite D Parque Industrial Finsa
Apodaca Foreign States, 66600

Country: Mexico

Involved Components

Component Name 1: CNSL ASY RF

Component Description: Overhead Console

Component Part Number: LB5B-S519A58-PCN3ZHE

Component Name 2: CNSL ASY RF

Component Description: Overhead Console

Component Part Number: LB5B-S519A58-PEN3ZHE

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V726

Chronology

In June 2026, Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant (CAP) Plant Vehicle Team (PVT) identified an emerging concern involving overhead consoles. An evaluation of parts returned from vehicle swaps and warranty claims revealed that overhead consoles on 2026 Model Year (MY) Explorer Police Interceptor Utility (PIU) vehicles had the potential to enter an uncommanded "Global On" state, latching both front map lights in an illuminated condition that could not be turned off by vehicle occupants. On June 4, 2026, this concern was opened in the Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG). CCRG confirmed that this concern would not occur while driving and that, if present, the concern would manifest only at vehicle start-up.

In July 2026, Ford completed an assessment of warranty and field reports and concluded, for the affected vehicles, an occurrence rate of 0.8 repairs per thousand (R/1000) vehicles. CCRG evaluated Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 101, Section S5.3.4(a), which requires that any source of illumination in the front row must have the means of being turned off. CCRG preliminarily concluded that the condition in affected vehicles, which are equipped with individual map light pushbuttons, did not constitute a regulatory noncompliance and recommended closure of the investigation as a vehicle occupant would be unable to deliberately execute a "Global On" command in the affected vehicles.

In August - October 2026, CCRG reviewed and discussed the topic with the regulatory agency and reconsidered its initial evaluation of FMVSS No. 101, Section S5.3.4(a).

As of October 13, 2026, Ford is aware of 69 warranty claims, zero field reports, zero customer reports, and zero Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs).

On October 27, 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:

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 remove and replace the overhead console on vehicles built prior to July 9, 2026. For vehicles built between July 10, 2026, and October 23, 2026, dealers will inspect the overhead console for the presence of a "SW2" marking. If the "SW2" marking is not present, then the overhead console will be replaced. If the marking is present, then the overhead console will be re-installed. There will be no charge for this service.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The affected overhead consoles will be replaced with an overhead console that will prevent the "Global On" strategy from occurring.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V726

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 November 06, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin December 28, 2026, and is expected to be completed by December 30,2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is November 06, 2026.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Nov 06, 2026 - Nov 06, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Dec 28, 2026 - Dec 30, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Nov 06, 2026