



Service Engineering Operations  
Customer Service Division

Ford Motor Company  
PO Box 1904  
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

January 14, 2026

**TO:** All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Dealers

**SUBJECT: NEW VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD - Advance Notice  
Safety Recall 26S01**

Certain 2013-2019 Model Year Escape, 2013-2018 Model Year Focus and 2015-2016 Model Year MKC Vehicles Equipped with a 2.0L Engine and Engine Block Heater System  
Block Heater Element Replacement

**AFFECTED VEHICLES**

Vehicle	Model Year	Assembly Plant	Build Dates
Escape	2013-2019	Louisville	October 7, 2011 through August 2, 2019
Focus	2013-2018	Michigan	February 14, 2012 through May 4, 2018
MKC	2015-2016	Louisville	February 25, 2014 through March 19, 2016

US population of affected vehicles: 116,672. Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS and FSA VIN Lists.

**REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL**

In some of the affected vehicles, the engine block heater may develop a coolant leak through its element pins which could cause a resistive short circuit while the engine block heater system is plugged in. A short circuit in the engine block heater increases the risk of an underhood fire. **To reduce the risk of an underhood fire, customers should refrain from plugging in vehicle engine block heater systems until the safety recall remedy repair is completed.**

**SERVICE ACTION**

DO NOT DEMONSTRATE OR DELIVER any new in-stock vehicles involved in this safety recall. For new vehicle storage guidelines, refer to EFC13033, Storage Guidelines for New Vehicles.

**A complete Dealer Bulletin including technical instructions will be provided to dealers when a remedy is available to support this safety recall.**

**IMPORTANT: Dealers should open a Repair Order (RO) only when a full dealer bulletin is published. Opening an RO against an Awareness or Advance Notice will result in warranty rejections against a recall.**

**OWNER NOTIFICATION**

Owners of record will be notified via first-class mail within sixty days, which may occur before remedy availability including repair instructions have been provided to dealers.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Federal law requires dealers to complete this recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$27,168 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory prior to delivery.**

### **DEALER-OPERATED RENTAL VEHICLES**

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act law effective June 2016 prohibits a rental company from selling, renting or leasing vehicles subject to a safety recall. Please consult your legal counsel for legal advice.

### **QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE**

For questions and assistance, contact the Special Service Support Center (SSSC) via the SSSC Web Contact Site. The SSSC Web Contact Site can be accessed through the Professional Technician System (PTS) website using the SSSC link listed at the bottom of the OASIS VIN report screen or listed under the SSSC tab.

Customer Service Division

**Ford Motor Company**  
**Recall Reimbursement Plan for 26S01**

*Ford and Lincoln dealers are in the best position to quickly and efficiently process reimbursement requests. However, federal legislation requires all motor vehicle manufacturers to establish processes through which customers may seek recall reimbursement directly from the manufacturer or the dealers.*

*Regarding the specific reimbursement plan for Recall # 26S01, owners who have paid for service to remedy the defect or noncompliance must have had that service performed before January 31, 2026. After this date, if repairs related to this recall are performed by a non-Ford repair facility in an emergency, customers must submit any refund requests through their dealership. As required by this federal regulation, Ford Motor Company submitted the details of its latest General Recall Reimbursement Plan in a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in May 2025. The following is the text of that letter and the Plan:*

**General Recall Reimbursement Plan**  
(As submitted to the NHTSA)

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in 49 CFR Part 573 and Part 577 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Ford Motor Company (Ford) is submitting required information pertaining to our general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners before they are notified of a related safety recall.

Set forth below is Ford's general plan to reimburse owners and purchasers for costs incurred for remedies in advance of notification of potential safety-related defects or non-compliances pursuant to Part 573.6 (c)(8)(i). This plan has not changed since our May 21, 2025 submission.

Reimbursement Notification

Ford's notice to a vehicle owner in accordance with 49 CFR Part 577 will indicate that Ford is offering a refund if the owner paid to have service to remedy the defect or noncompliance prior to a specified ending date. In accordance with Part 573.13 (c)(2), this ending date will be defined as a minimum of ten calendar days after the date on which Ford mailed the last of its Part 577 notifications to owners and will be indicated in the specific reimbursement plan available to owners for an individual recall. This notice will direct owners to seek eligible reimbursement through authorized dealers or, at their option, directly through Ford at the following address:

Ford Motor Company  
P.O. Box 6251  
Dearborn, MI 48121-6251

Ford notes that this rule allows for the identification of a beginning date for reimbursement eligibility. Under the rule, an owner who paid to remedy the defect or noncompliance prior to the identified beginning date would not be eligible for reimbursement. Ford generally has not established such a beginning date for reimbursement eligibility and does not presently anticipate changing this general policy. However, in any case where Ford determines a beginning date is appropriate, Ford will indicate that date in the owner notice. As permitted by 577.11(e), Ford may not include a reimbursement notification when all vehicles are well within the warranty period, subject to approval by the Agency.

## Costs to be Reimbursed

For vehicles, reimbursement will not be less than the lesser of:

- The amount paid by the owner for the remedy that specifically addressed and was reasonably necessary to correct the defect or noncompliance that is the subject of the recall, or
- The cost of parts for the remedy (to be no more than the manufacturer's list retail price for authorized part(s), plus associated labor at local labor rates, miscellaneous fees (such as disposal of waste) and taxes.

For replacement equipment, reimbursement will be the amount paid by the owner for the replacement item (limited by the amount of the retail list price of the defective or noncompliant item that was replaced, plus taxes, where the brand or model purchased by the owner was different than the brand or model that was the subject of the recall). If the item of motor vehicle equipment was repaired, the reimbursement provisions identified above for vehicles will apply.

Ford notes that costs incurred by the owner within the period during which Ford's original or extended warranty would have provided for a free repair of the problem will not be eligible for reimbursement, as provided by Part 573.13 (d)(1).

## Entities Authorized to Provide Reimbursement

Ford will continue to use authorized dealers to reimburse owners under the specific reimbursement plans for a particular recall and will encourage owners to pursue requests for reimbursement directly through dealers to expedite reimbursement. Ford will also provide a mailing address to which customers can, at their option, send requests for reimbursement directly to Ford, as previously noted. Requests for reimbursement sent directly to Ford may take up to 60 days to process. Whether the owner chooses to pursue reimbursement requests through a dealer or directly through Ford, the owner will be directed to submit the required documentation, upon which reimbursement eligibility will be determined.

## Required Documentation

The reimbursement determination will depend upon the information provided by the customer. Consistent with Part 573.13 (d)(4) the following information must be submitted:

- Claimant name and address
- Vehicle make, model and model year
- Vehicle identification number (VIN) and, for replacement equipment, a description of such equipment or, for tires, the model, size and TIN (DOT code)
- Identification of the recall number (either the Ford recall number or the NHTSA recall number)
- Identification of the owner of the recalled vehicle at the time that the pre-notification remedy was obtained
- An original receipt for the pre-notification remedy that includes a breakdown of the amount for parts, labor, other costs and taxes, including costs for the replacement item. Where the receipt covers work other than to address the recall or noncompliance, Ford may require the claimant to separately identify costs that are eligible for reimbursement.
- If the remedy was obtained during the warranty repair did not correct the problem related to the recall

Failure to submit all the above information may result in denial of the reimbursement request.

### Additional Information

The Part 577 required owner notice will provide a toll-free telephone number through which specific information about the reimbursement plan can be requested from Ford. This general reimbursement plan will be incorporated into notifications pursuant to Part 573.6 by reference. Information specific to an individual recall also may be incorporated into the Part 573.6 notification.