



Service Engineering Operations  
Customer Service Division

Ford Motor Company  
PO Box 1904  
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

April 3, 2026

**TO:** All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Dealers  
**SUBJECT:** **NEW VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION / DELIVERY HOLD  
Safety Recall 26S22**  
Certain 2026 Model Year Explorer and Aviator Vehicles  
Instrument Panel Fastener Inspection and Repair

**AFFECTED VEHICLES (U.S. Population Of Affected Vehicles 55):**

Vehicle	Model Year	Assembly Plant	Build Date Range
Aviator	2026	Chicago	October 20, 2025 through December 18, 2025
Explorer/ Police Interceptor			October 19, 2025 through January 12, 2026

Affected vehicles are identified in OASIS and FSA VIN Lists.

**REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL**

On all of the affected vehicles, specific instrument panel fasteners, including four electrical grounds, may not have been tightened to specification during assembly. A loose ground connection in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system may result in an inoperative blower motor. An inoperative blower motor causes an inability to defrost or defog the windshield that can reduce driver visibility, increasing the risk of a crash.

**SERVICE ACTION**

Before demonstrating or delivering any new in-stock vehicles involved in this recall, dealers are to check and replace fasteners to make sure they are tightened to specification. This service must be performed on all affected vehicles at no charge to the vehicle owner. For new vehicle storage guidelines, refer to EFC13033, Storage Guidelines for New Vehicles.

**FSA PROGRAM OPTIONS**

Program Option	Eligibility	Comments
Mobile Repair	No	See <b>Mobile Service Repair Assessment Level</b> section below, if applicable.
Over-the-Air (OTA) Update	No	See <b>Over-The-Air (OTA) Updates</b> section of the FSA Policy Document, if applicable.
Rentals	No	See the <b>Rental Vehicles</b> section below, if applicable.
Alternative Transportation Available	No	See <b>Alternate Transportation</b> section in the FSA Policy Document.
Pickup & Delivery (PDL)	Yes	See <b>Pickup &amp; Delivery</b> section in the FSA Policy document.
Towing	No	See <b>Towing</b> section below, if applicable.

### **FSA PROGRAM OPTIONS (continued)**

Essential Special Service Tools (ESST)	No	See <b>Technical Instructions</b> and/or <b>Workshop Manual (WSM)</b> as needed.
Administrative Allowance	No	See <b>Administrative Allowance</b> section in FSA Policy Document, and if applicable, <b>Labor Allowances</b> table below.
Owner Refunds	Yes	See <b>Owner Refunds</b> section below, if applicable.
Photo Submission	No	See <b>Repair Photo Submission</b> section below, if applicable.

**Note:** For further information on certain Program Options above, see the corresponding section within the FSA Policy Document.

### **OWNER NOTIFICATION MAILING SCHEDULE**

Owner letters are expected to be mailed the week of April 6, 2026 or sooner. Dealers should repair any affected vehicles that arrive at their dealerships, whether or not the customer has received a letter.

### **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 before delivery.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Technical Instructions
- Owner Notification Letters
- Vehicle Pickup & Delivery Record
- Recall Reimbursement Plan

### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

- Warranty & Policy Manual (located on FMCDealer Warranty Portal Page):  
[www.fmcdealer.dealerconnection.com/content/fmcdealer/us/en/parts\\_service/wty.html](http://www.fmcdealer.dealerconnection.com/content/fmcdealer/us/en/parts_service/wty.html)
- FSA Policy Document (located on FMCDealer FSA Resources Page for Ford and Lincoln dealerships):  
[www.fmcdealer.dealerconnection.com/content/fmcdealer/us/en/parts\\_service/fsa/rsc.html](http://www.fmcdealer.dealerconnection.com/content/fmcdealer/us/en/parts_service/fsa/rsc.html)
- FSA Policy Document (located on the Fleet SharePoint site for Fleets with in-house warranty):  
<https://azureford.sharepoint.com/sites/OneWarrantySolution/usfleet/SitePages/Home.aspx>


### **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

## Safety Recall 26S22

### **MOBILE SERVICE REPAIR ASSESSMENT LEVEL**

- All Vehicles Affected:
  -  - Not a Mobile Service Repair (MRA5)

### **OASIS ACTIVATION**

OASIS will be activated on April 3, 2026

### **FSA VIN LISTS ACTIVATION**

FSA VIN Lists will be available through <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com> on April 3, 2026. Owner names and addresses will be available by April 27, 2026.

**NOTE:** Your FSA VIN Lists may contain owner names and addresses obtained from motor vehicle registration records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any purpose other than in connection with this recall is a violation of law in several states, provinces, and countries. Accordingly, you must limit the use of this listing to the follow-up necessary to complete this recall.

### **SOLD VEHICLES**

- Ford has not issued instructions to stop selling/delivering or driving used vehicles under this safety recall. Owners should contact their dealers for an appointment to have their vehicles remedied as soon as practicable.
- Immediately contact any of your affected customers whose vehicles are not on your VIN list but are identified in OASIS. Give the customer a copy of the Owner Notification Letter (when available) and schedule a service date.
- Correct other affected vehicles identified in OASIS which are brought to your dealership.
- Dealers are to prioritize repairs of customer vehicles over repairs of new and used vehicle inventory.

### **IN-STOCK VEHICLES**

- Correct all affected units in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.
- Use OASIS to identify any affected vehicles in your used vehicle inventory.

### **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 or compliance recall. Please consult your legal counsel for legal advice.

### **BRANDED / SALVAGED TITLE VEHICLES**

Affected branded / salvaged title vehicles are eligible for this recall.

### **OWNER REFUNDS**

- **This Safety Recall must still be performed, even if the owner has paid for a previous repair. Claiming a refund will not close the recall on the vehicle.**
- Ford Motor Company is offering a refund for owner-paid repairs covered by this recall if the repair was performed before the date indicated in the reimbursement plan, which is posted with this bulletin. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers or, at their option, directly through Ford Motor Company at PO Box 6251, Dearborn, MI 48121-6251.
- Dealers are also pre-approved to refund owner-paid emergency repairs that were performed away from an authorized servicing dealer after the end date specified in the reimbursement plan. Non-covered repairs, or those judged by Ford to be excessive, will not be reimbursed.

## Safety Recall 26S22

### OWNER REFUNDS (continued)

- Refunds will only be provided for the cost associated with loose instrument panel grounds or fasteners.

### RENTAL VEHICLES

Rental vehicles are not approved for this program.

### ADDITIONAL REPAIR (LABOR TIME AND/OR PARTS)

Additional repairs identified as necessary to complete the FSA should be managed as follows:

- For related damage and access time requirements, refer to the Warranty and Policy Manual / Section 6 – Ford & Lincoln Program Policies / General Information & Special Circumstances for FSAs / Related Damage.
- **For vehicles within new vehicle bumper-to-bumper warranty coverage, no SSSC approval is required**, although related damage must be on a separate repair line with the “Related Damage” radio button checked.
  - Ford vehicles – 3 years or 36,000 miles
  - Lincoln vehicles – 4 years or 50,000 miles
- **For vehicles outside new vehicle bumper-to-bumper warranty coverage:**
  - Submit an Approval Request to the SSSC Web Contact Site before completing the repair.
- See “Additional Repair Info” in the FSA Policy Document for further Terms and Conditions.

### CLAIMS PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

- **Technician Competency Requirement:** The STST Competency 10 certification requirement in the U.S. market only will be enforced starting with repair orders opened on or after August 31, 2024. FSA repairs will be rejected, and the claim will not be paid if the repairing technician is not certified in STST Competency 10 FSA. See EFC15936 for more details.
- **Claim Entry:** Enter claims using Dealer Management System (DMS) or One Warranty Solution (OWS) online.
  - When entering claims, select claim type **31**: Field Service Action. The FSA number 26S22 is the subcode.
  - For additional claims preparation and submission information, refer to the Recall and Customer Satisfaction Program (CSP) Repairs in the OWS User Guide.
- **Related Damage/Additional labor and/or parts:** Must be claimed as Related Damage on a separate repair line from the FSA with the same claim type and subcode as described in Claim Entry above.

**IMPORTANT:** Click the Related Damage Indicator radio button.

- **Refunds:** Submit refunds on a separate repair line.
  - Program Code: 26S22
  - Misc. Expense: ADMIN
  - Misc. Expense: REFUND
  - Misc. Expense: 0.2 Hrs.
  - Multiple refunds should be submitted on one repair line and the invoice details for each repair should be detailed in the comments section of the claim.

**Safety Recall 26S22**

**LABOR ALLOWANCES**

**Note:** Only one labor operation may be claimed from this table. (Additional supplemental labor operations may be claimed from the Supplemental Labor Allowances table.)

Description	Labor Operation	Labor Time Hour(s)
Explorer and Aviator (includes Police Interceptor Utility). -Includes time to verify instrument panel ground fasteners and specific fastener locations in the instrument panel (see technical instructions). <b>This labor operation code closes the FSA.</b>	MT26S22B	M-time up to 2.0

**SUPPLEMENTAL LABOR ALLOWANCES These labor operation codes DO NOT close the FSA.**

**Note:** Claim any relevant supplemental labor operations in addition to the primary labor operation.

Description	Labor Operation	Labor Time Hour(s)
Police Interceptor Utility Only - Additional labor if police/upfit equipment needs to be removed/reinstalled for access to instrument panel grounds or specific fastener locations in the instrument panel (see technical instructions).	MT26S22C	M-time up to 2.0
<b>Lincoln Vehicle Pick-Up &amp; Delivery Allowance:</b> <b>This allowance is only for <u>non-eligible</u> 2026 Remote Experience Program Dealers AND vehicles <u>outside</u> of Lincoln Pick-Up &amp; Delivery contract coverage of 4 years/50,000 miles.</b> <b>NOTE:</b> This allowance is for dealer-performed vehicle Pick-Up & Delivery for dealership repairs only. Can only be claimed once, regardless of outstanding FSAs repaired.	26S22LL	0.5
<b>Ford Vehicle Pick-Up &amp; Delivery Allowance:</b> <b>This allowance is only for <u>non-eligible</u> 2026 Remote Experience Program Dealers.</b> <b>NOTE:</b> This allowance is for dealer-performed vehicle Pick-Up & Delivery for dealership repairs only. Can only be claimed once, regardless of outstanding FSAs repaired.	26S22PP	0.5

**Safety Recall 26S22**

**PARTS REQUIREMENTS / ORDERING INFORMATION**

<b>Service Part Number</b>	<b>Claim Quantity</b>	<b>Package Order Quantity</b>	<b>Number in Package</b>	<b>Description</b>
-W714409-S439	1	1	4	Steering Column I-Shaft Bolt
-W721079-S437	1	1	4	Steering Wheel Bolt

Order your parts through normal order processing channels. To guarantee the shortest delivery time, an emergency order for parts must be placed.

**Restricted Part Ordering:**

To place an order for the Selector Lever Bolt, submit a VIN-specific Part Order contact via the SSSC Web Contact Site.

If parts are on backorder, vehicle must be present in the dealership. The VIN-specific part order must provide the following:

1. Attach a photo of vehicle mileage.
2. Attach a photo of door tag showing VIN.
3. If the vehicle is off road, then refer to EFC14236. VOR escalation is required in DOW.

<b>Service Part Number</b>	<b>Claim Quantity</b>	<b>Package Order Quantity</b>	<b>Number in Package</b>	<b>Description</b>
-W712000-S451	1	1	4	Selector Lever Bolt - Police Interceptor Utility Only

Dealers will be notified via a DOES II communication if circumstances warrant a change in part supply strategy and when open ordering resumes.

**DEALER PRICE**

For the latest prices, refer to DOES II.

**PARTS RETENTION, RETURN, & SCRAPPING**

Please refer to the FSA Policy Document for any and all questions on parts.

**EXCESS STOCK RETURN**

Please refer to the FSA Policy Document for any and all questions on parts.

**REPLACED FSA PARTS INSPECTION AND SIGN OFF**

Please refer to the FSA Policy Document for any and all questions on parts.

## CERTAIN 2026 MODEL YEAR EXPLORER AND AVIATOR VEHICLES – INSTRUMENT PANEL FASTENER INSPECTION AND REPAIR

**IMPORTANT!** The Service Technician Specialty Training (STST) Competency 10 certification requirement in the U.S. market only will be enforced starting with repair orders opened on or after August 31, 2024. Field Service Action (FSA) repairs will reject and the claim will not be paid if the repairing technician is not certified in STST Competency 10 FSA. See Electronic Field Communication (EFC)15936 for more details.

### SERVICE PROCEDURE

These technical instructions address specific fastener locations within the instrument panel that may not have been tightened to proper specification during vehicle assembly. This procedure is to verify the affected fasteners are properly secured and replace any that are one time use.

#### Driver Side

1. Remove the driver airbag. Follow the Workshop Manual (WSM) procedures in Section 501-20B.
2. Install *new* steering wheel bolt. See Figure 1 for Aviator and Figure 2 for Explorer vehicles.

• Torque: 46 lb.ft (63 Nm)

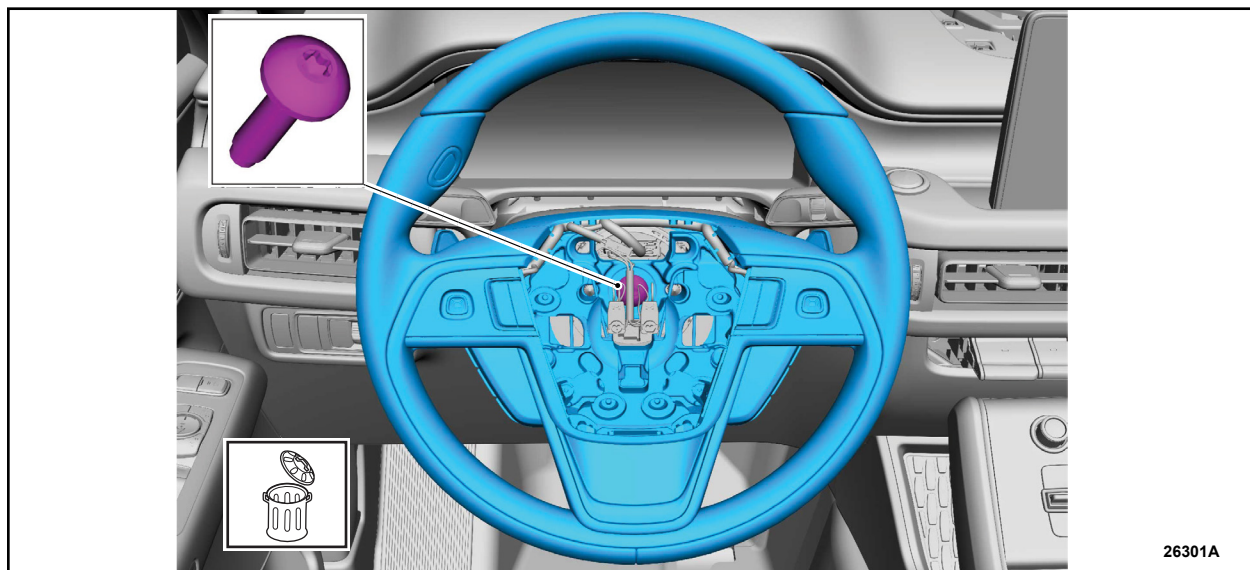
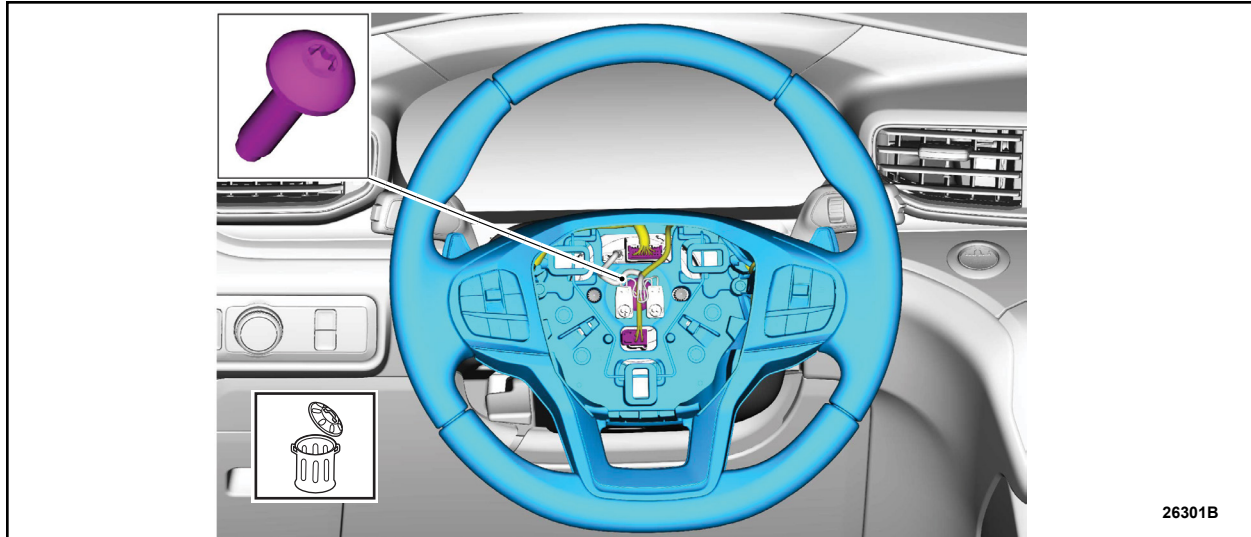


FIGURE 1





**FIGURE 2**

3. Reinstall the driver airbag. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-20B.
4. Remove the steering column shrouds. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-05.
5. Rotate the steering wheel as needed to access and torque all four steering column control module (SCCM) retainers. See Figure 3.

• Torque: 35 lb.in (4 Nm)



**FIGURE 3**

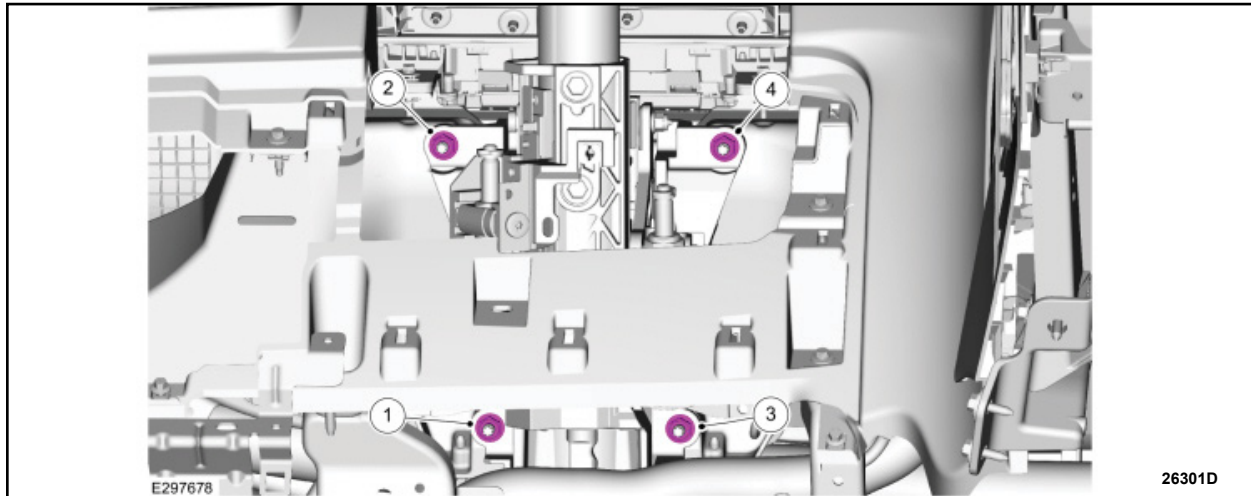


6. Remove the driver knee airbag. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-20B.

7. Tighten the steering column mounting nuts following the sequence shown. See Figure 4.

- Torque: 18 lb.ft (25 Nm)

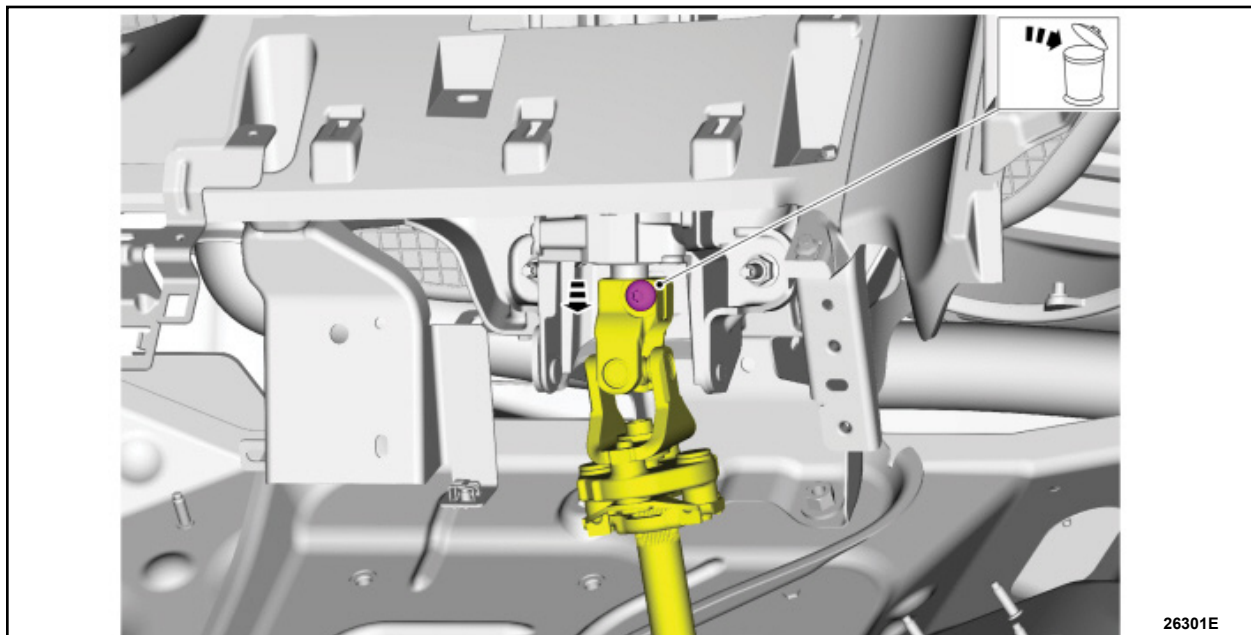
**NOTE:** Power adjustable column shown, others similar.



**FIGURE 4**

8. Remove and discard the steering column shaft bolt. Install the *new* steering column shaft bolt. See Figure 5.

- Torque: 22 lb.ft (30 Nm)

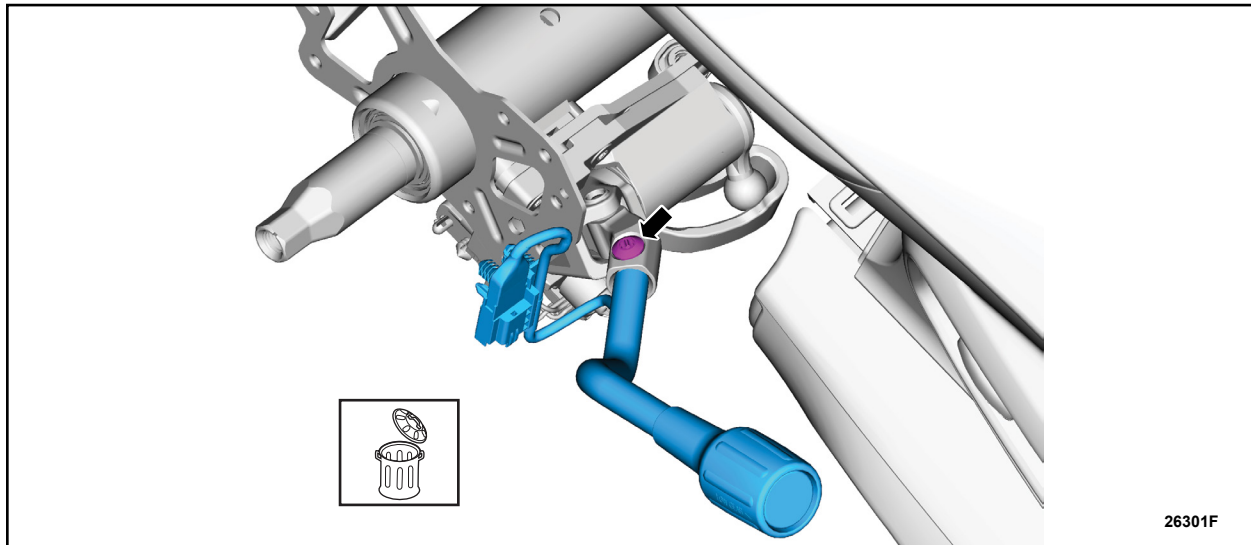


**FIGURE 5**



9. For Police Interceptor vehicles only, install a *new* selector lever bolt. See Figure 6.

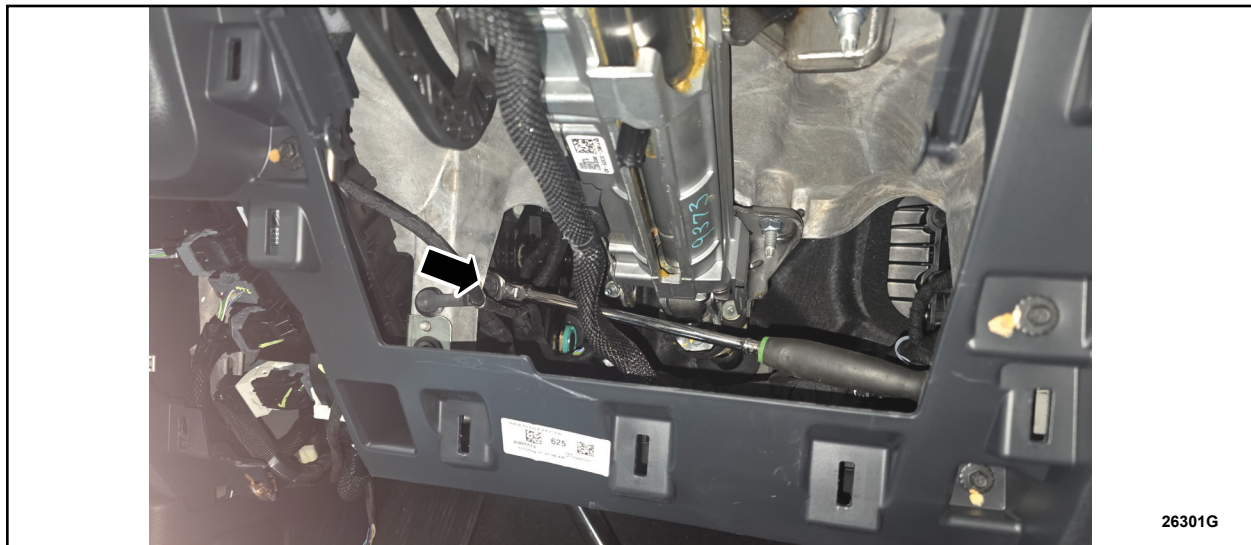
- Torque: 159 lb.in (18 Nm)



**FIGURE 6**

10. Locate and tighten both grounds. See Figures 7 and 8.

- Torque: 120 lb.in (13.5 Nm)



**FIGURE 7**





**FIGURE 8**

11. Reinstall the driver knee airbag. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-20B.
12. Reinstall the steering column shrouds. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-05.

**Center Stack**

13. If equipped, release the clips and remove the instrument panel center speaker grille. See Figure 9 for Aviator and Figure 10 for Explorer vehicles.



**FIGURE 9**

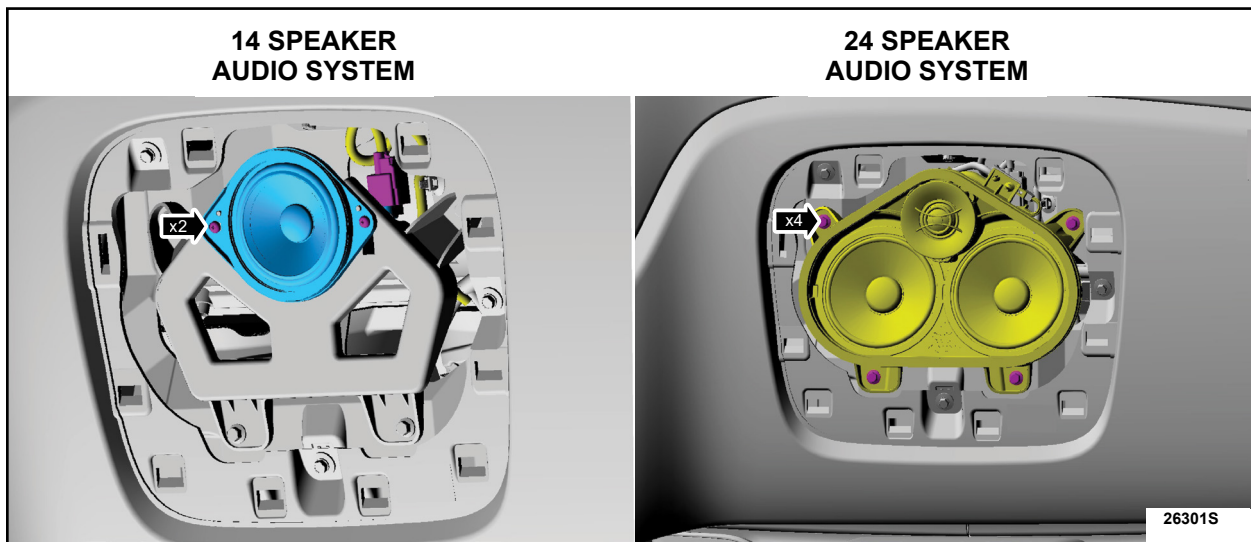




**FIGURE 10**

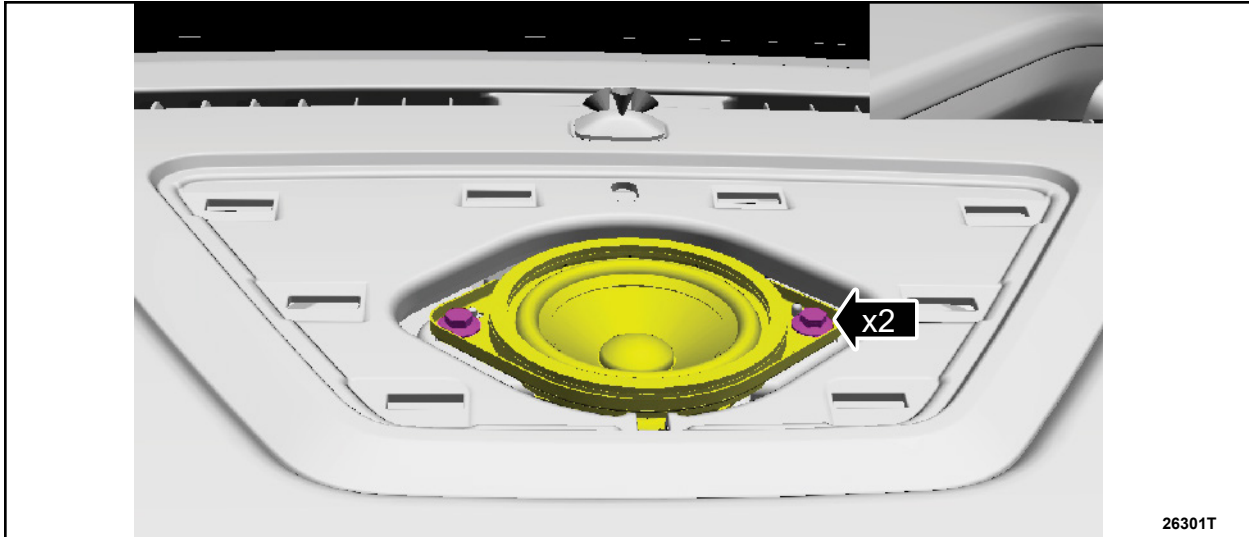
14. Tighten the instrument panel center speaker screws. See Figure 11 for Aviator and Figure 12 for Explorer vehicles.

- Torque: 18 lb.in (2 Nm)



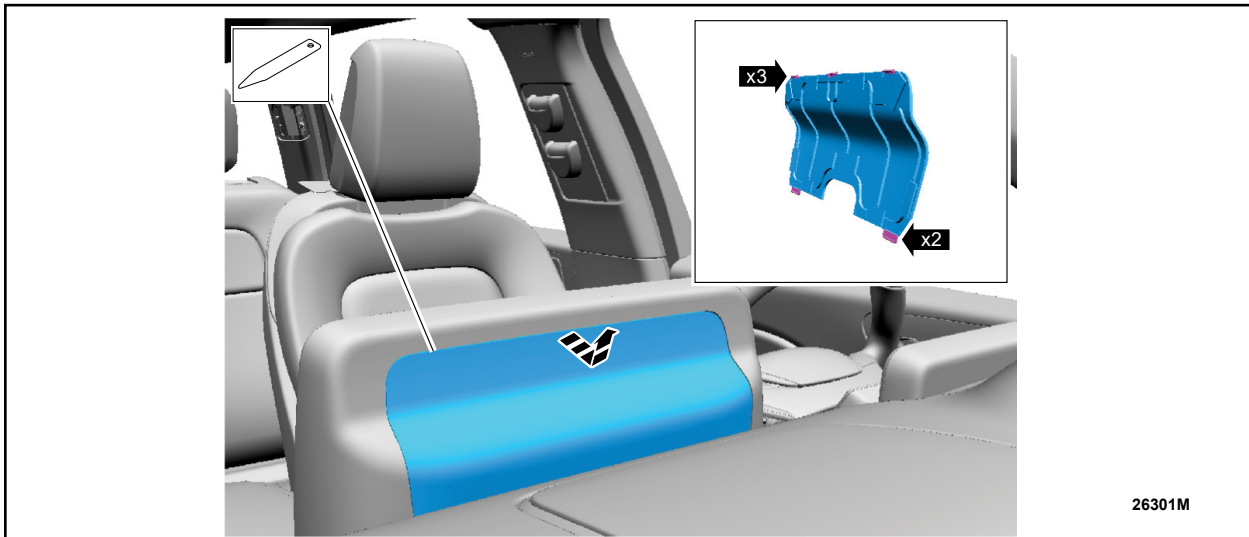
**FIGURE 11**





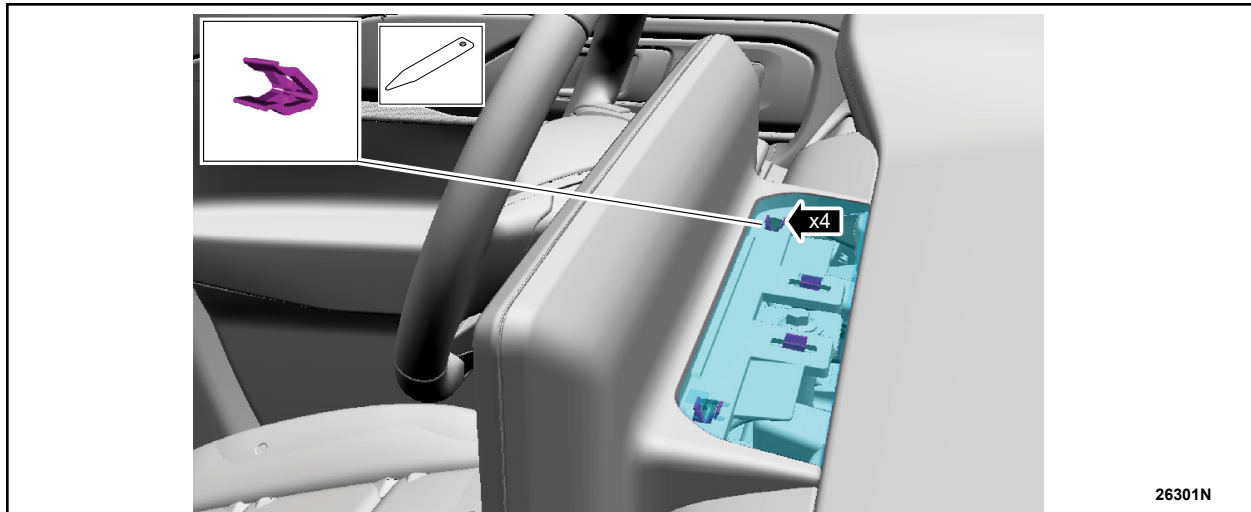
**FIGURE 12**

15. Reinstall the instrument panel center speaker grille.
16. For vehicles with an 8 inch display, proceed to Step 19.  
For all other vehicles, release the clips and remove the center display screen trim plate.  
See Figure 13 for Aviator and Figure 14 for Explorer vehicles.



**FIGURE 13**





**FIGURE 14**

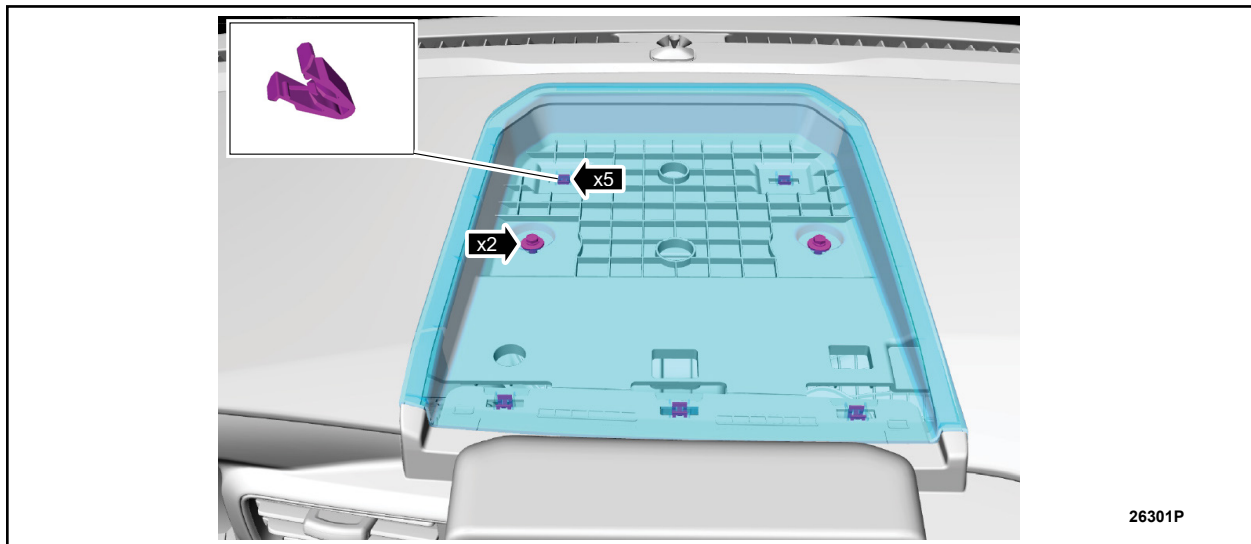
17. Tighten all 3 center display screen bolts.

- Aviator Torque: 106 lb.in (12 Nm)
- Explorer Torque: 71 lb.in (8 Nm)

18. Reinstall the center display screen trim plate. Continue to Step 22.

19. For vehicles with an 8 inch display, remove the upper instrument trim panel. Remove the screws and release the clips. See Figure 15.

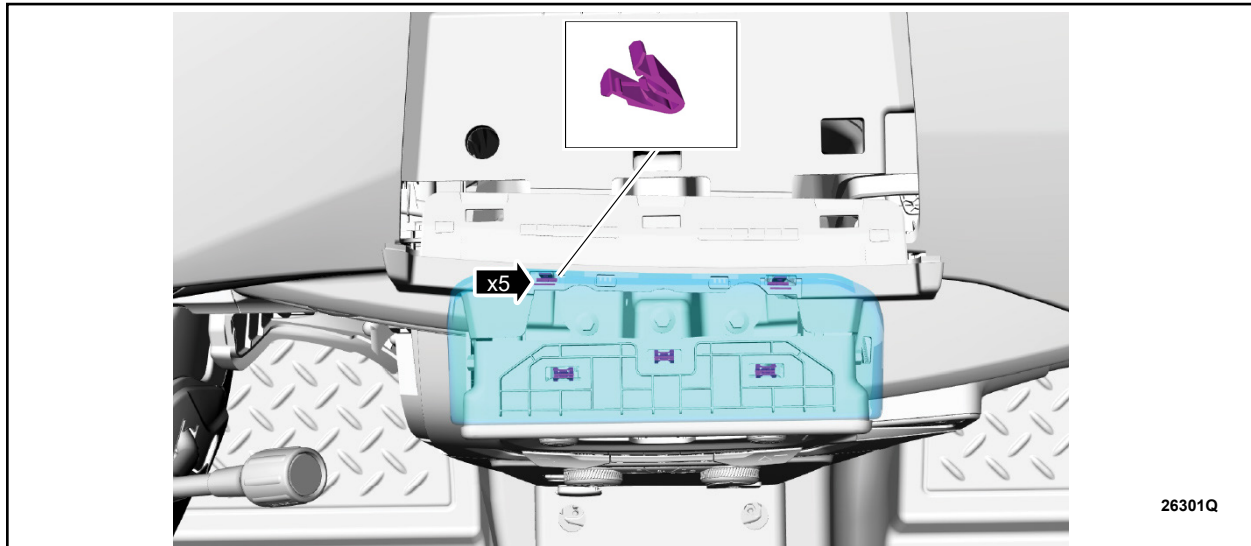
- Torque: 22 lb.in (2.5 Nm)



**FIGURE 15**



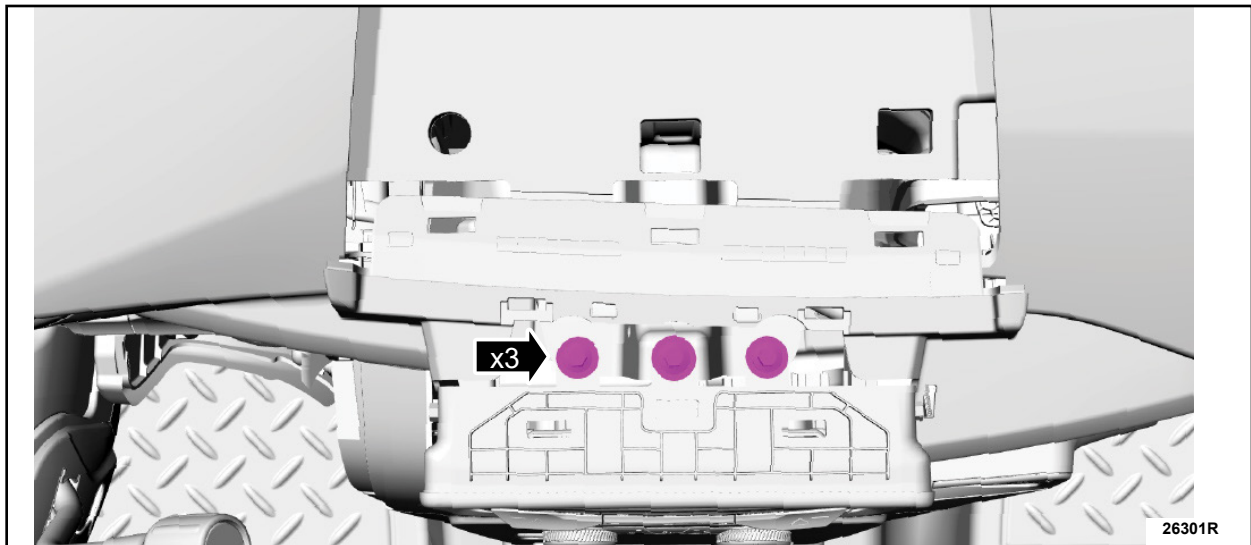
20. Release the clips and remove the center display screen upper trim panel. See Figure 16.



**FIGURE 16**

21. Remove the bolts. See Figure 17.

- Torque: 28 lb.in (3.2 Nm)



**FIGURE 17**



22. Tighten all 3 center display screen bolts.

- Aviator Torque: 106 lb.in (12 Nm)
- Explorer Torque: 71 lb.in (8 Nm)

23. Reinstall the center display screen trim plate. Continue to Step 24.

### Passenger Side

24. Remove the glove compartment. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-12.

25. Locate and tighten both grounds. See Figures 18 and 19.

- Torque: 120 lb.in (13.5 Nm)

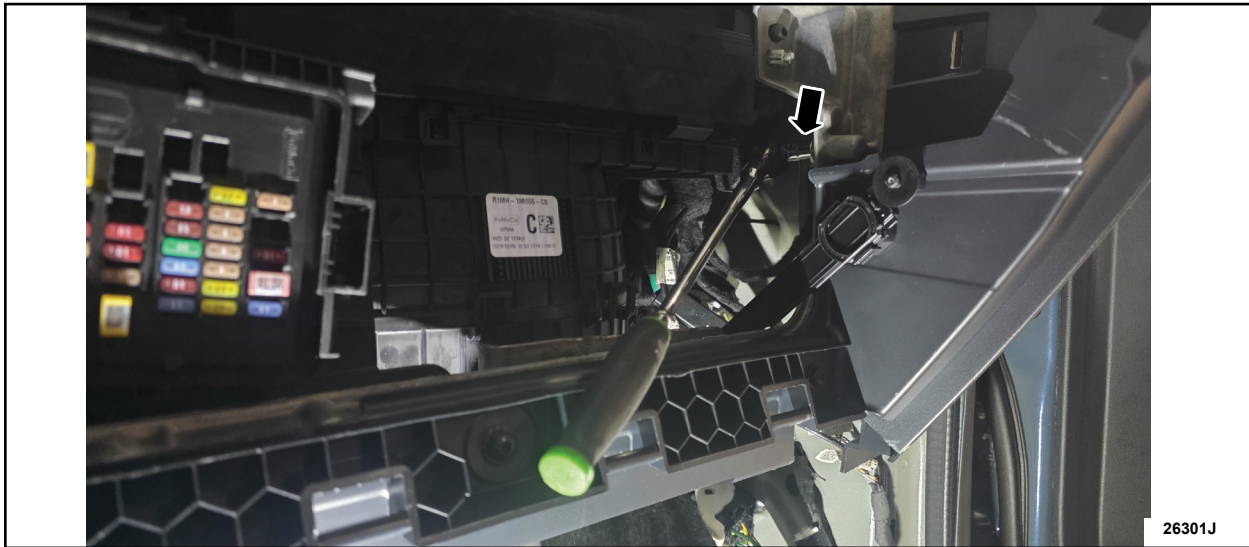


FIGURE 18





**FIGURE 19**

**NOTE:** Some vehicles may require smaller tools to access the fastener in this location. Harness may also need to be pushed inward to gain enough access to tighten the fastener.

26. Reinstall the glove compartment. Follow the WSM procedures in Section 501-12.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Federal law prohibits selling motor vehicle parts or components that are under safety, compliance, or emissions recall. Unless a part is requested to be returned to Ford, all parts replaced under this FSA must be scrapped in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal environmental protection and hazardous material regulations. Refer to the Parts Retention, Return, & Scrapping section of the FSA dealer bulletin for further information.



**Safety Recall 26S22**  
**Vehicle Pickup and Delivery Record**

VIN \_\_\_\_\_ received (check one):

Pickup and/or delivery service

As outlined below for the 26S22 Field Service Action program.

Pickup      – Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery      – Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Repair Order #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Repair Order Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Service Manager Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Ford Motor Company**  
**Recall Reimbursement Plan for 26S22**

*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 # 26S22, owners who have paid for service to remedy the defect or noncompliance must have had that service performed before April 24, 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.