

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 8:32 am, Dec 03, 2012



Steve M. Kenner, Global Director
Automotive Safety Office
Sustainability, Environment & Safety Engineering

Fairlane Plaza South, Suite 400
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738 USA

November 30, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W45-306
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 12S41 – Certain 2013 model year Escape and Fusion vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines – engine overheating that may result in a fire

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 model year Escape and Fusion vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines for risk of overheating that may result in engine fires.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 65,074 2013 Escape vehicles and 14,983 2013 Fusion vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – Certain 2013 model year Escape and Fusion vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines may experience engine overheating that can lead to fluid leaks that may come in contact with the hot exhaust system that may result in a fire. Ford is aware of nine field reports of fires in the United States on vehicles in customer service.

(Further, Ford is aware of one field report of a pre-delivery vehicle fire in Tennessee, one field report of a vehicle fire in Canada and two fires at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) that were previously described in Ford's Defect Information Reports for 12S35 and 12S39.)

- Service Procedure – Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to contact their Ford or Lincoln dealer or to contact the Ford telephone hotline to arrange for alternate transportation. Ford is developing a fix to address the fire risk and owners will be re-notified to have their vehicles repaired when parts are available.

The detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report, to the extent that it is currently available, is attached.

Sincerely,

for Steven M. Kenner
Attachment



49 CFR PART 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
12S41 – CERTAIN 2013 ESCAPE and FUSION VEHICLES WITH 1.6L ENGINES –
ENGINE OVERHEATING THAT MAY RESULT IN A FIRE

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-Compliance Reports, Ford Motor Company submits the following information concerning a safety recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

573.6 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are certain 2013 model year Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines built at Ford's Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) from October 5, 2011, to November 26, 2012, and certain 2013 model year Fusion vehicles built at Ford's Hermosillo Stamping and Assembly Plant (HSAP) from February 3, 2012, through November 29, 2012, are potentially affected.

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.

573.6 (c) (3) – Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 65,074 2013 Escape vehicles and 14,983 2013 Fusion vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.

573.6 (c) (4) – Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition

Unknown.

573.6 (c) (5) – Description of the Defect

Certain 2013 model year Escape and Fusion vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines may experience engine overheating that can lead to fluid leaks that may come in contact with the hot exhaust system that may result in a fire. Ford is aware of nine field reports of fires in the United States on vehicles in customer service.

(Further, Ford is aware of one field report of a pre-delivery vehicle fire in Tennessee, one field report of a vehicle fire in Canada and two fires at the Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP) that were previously described in Ford's Defect Information Reports for 12S35 and 12S39.)

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On September 7, 2012, Ford received a report of a vehicle fire on a 2013 Escape equipped with a 1.6L engine in Florida. Ford's investigation of this vehicle on September 12, 2012, identified that the vehicle had been operated, improperly, without the engine oil dipstick, allowing engine oil to be expelled through the dipstick tube and to contact the hot exhaust system.

On September 24, 2012, Ford received a report of a vehicle fire on a 2013 Escape equipped with a 1.6L engine in Virginia. Ford conducted an on-site visual inspection on October 2, 2012.

The cause of the fire could not be identified through this visual inspection. Ford began steps to acquire the vehicle to allow detailed analysis and it was received on November 7, 2012.

On October 22, 2012, Ford received a report of a vehicle fire on 2013 Escape equipped with a 1.6L engine in Arizona. Ford conducted an on-site visual inspection on October 25, 2012. The cause of the fire could not be identified through this visual inspection. Ford began steps to acquire the vehicle to allow detailed analysis and it was received on November 19, 2012.

Between November 8, 2012, and November 29, 2012, Ford became aware of five additional engine compartment fire reports on 2013 Escape vehicles equipped with 1.6L engines and one fire report on a 2013 Fusion equipped with a 1.6L engine. Ford promptly took actions to investigate each of these reports and perform detailed analysis.

Ford established a broader cross functional task force to further investigate these fires on November 12, 2012. Ford's investigation of the subject vehicles, found a pattern of engine overheating and fluid leaks that led to the fires.

On November 29, 2012, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved field action 12S41 to notify dealers and customers of this concern.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to contact their Ford or Lincoln dealer or to contact the Ford telephone hotline to arrange for alternate transportation. Ford is developing a fix to address the fire risk and owners will be re-notified to have their vehicles repaired when parts are available.

Initial notification to dealers will occur on November 30, 2012. Initial owner notification letters will be mailed the week of December 3, 2012.

In accordance with Part 573.13(d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this concern because Ford's original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers.

573.6 (c) (10) – Press Statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford will issue a news release concerning this recall. In addition, national media attention is likely as with most Ford recalls when posted to NHTSA's safecar.gov website. Supplemental information will be available on the Ford website, www.ford.com.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners to the agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) – Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 12S41 to this action.

###