



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** Loss of motive power due to torque
converter failure in model year (MY) 2004 Ford Freestar
vehicles (PE09-033).

Date: JUL 27 2009

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

Reply to
Attn. of:

NVS-213swmc

To: Roger Saul, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

BACKGROUND: This office has received 65 complaints alleging incidents of loss of motive power in MY 2004 Ford Freestar vehicles. Additionally, the office has received 113 complaints alleging loss of motive power due to unspecified internal transmission failures.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the testing is to determine the failure modes/mechanisms for transmission failures reported in certain ODI complaints by examining and testing, as appropriate, parts collected from owners.

TEST VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE: Examine and analyze, as required, parts from vehicles with reported transmission failures that resulted in vehicle disablements. Coordinate all test plans with the ODI investigator or ODI division chief.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The ODI investigator is Stephen McHenry, stephen.mchenry@dot.gov, 202-366-4883. The ODI division chief is Jeffrey Quandt, jeff.quandt@dot.gov, 202-366-5207. The investigator and division chief should be updated at least bi-weekly of test program status/progress.

FINAL REPORT: It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in discussion with ODI.

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