



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT INFORMATION  
REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 04V-442 by the  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: **September 9, 2004**      Date Faxed/E-Mailed: **September 17, 2004**

MANUFACTURER: **Ford Motor Company**

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: **James Vondale, Director, Automotive Safety Office**

FAX (313) 594-2268

**SUBJECT: 955,732 Ford 2002-2003 Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer sport utility vehicles, manufactured from August 1, 2000 through June 23, 2003. The liftgate glass strut may become disengaged or the hinge may fracture allowing the glass to fall and possibly break. If the hinge should fracture, there is a potential for the glass to fall and ultimately break and minor injuries could occur. Ford Recall No. 04S20.**

This is an acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be written only if we have additional comments or concerns.

Please provide us with a draft owner notification letter for our review before mailing to consumers.

This recall was the subject of Preliminary Evaluation, PE04-045, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin during late September 2004. Since this will be close to the end of the quarter, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2005.

If you have any questions, please call:

Patricia Wallace, Safety Defects Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or  
George Person, Chief on (202) 366-5210  
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Recall Management Division