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08V-191  
(3 Pages)

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April 18, 2008

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE/W45-231  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

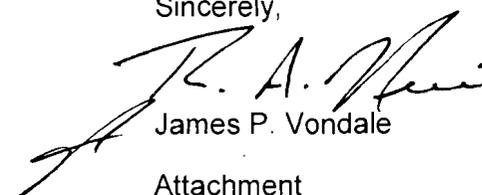
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 08C04 - Certain 2008 Model Year Ford F-250 and F-350 Single Rear Wheel (SRW), 4x4, 156 Inch Wheel Base, Pick Up Trucks Equipped With A Two Piece Drive Shaft, For Installation Of A Fuel Tank Bracket

Summary

- Ford Action - Ford is conducting a voluntary compliance recall involving certain 2008 model year Ford F-250 and F-350 (SRW), 4x4, 156 inch wheel base, pick up trucks equipped with a two piece drive shaft to install a bracket to reduce fuel tank movement in rigid barrier impacts.
- Number of Vehicles Involved - Approximately 64,754 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.
- Description of Non-Compliance - During a 30 mph frontal impact into a rigid barrier, the fuel tank in the affected pick up trucks can move forward and contact a frame cross member, potentially causing damage to the fuel delivery module which can result in fuel spillage. Section S5.5 of FMVSS 301 defines the requirements for fuel spillage during and after a barrier impact. On the affected vehicles the fuel spillage may exceed the allowed 28g during impact and/or exceed the 142g post impact requirement. As of March 31, 2008, there are no known accidents, fires, or injuries attributed to this condition.
- Service Program - Ford notified dealers on April 14, 2008, to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until the bracket can be installed. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to have the bracket installed in their vehicle.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 - NON-COMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT  
08C04 - 2008 MODEL YEAR FORD F-250 AND F-350 SINGLE REAR WHEEL,  
4x4, 156 INCH WHEEL BASE PICK UP TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH A TWO PIECE DRIVE  
SHAFT

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-compliance Reports, Ford Motor Company (Ford) submits the following information concerning a potential non-compliance to the requirements of Section S5.5 of FMVSS 301 for certain 2008 model year Ford F-250 and F-350 SRW, 4x4, 156 inch wheel base pick up trucks equipped with a two piece drive shaft.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are certain 2008 model year F-250 and F-350 SRW, 4x4, 156 inch wheel base, pick up trucks equipped with a two piece drive shaft built from June 14, 2006, through March 30, 2008, at the Kentucky Truck plant.

Because 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/Mercury 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 64,754 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories.

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

100%

573.6 (c) (5) - Description of Non-Compliance

During a 30 mph frontal impact into a rigid barrier, the fuel tank in the affected pick up trucks can move forward and contact a frame cross member, potentially causing damage to the fuel delivery module which can result in fuel spillage. Section S5.5 of FMVSS 301 defines the requirements for fuel spillage during and after a barrier impact. On the affected vehicles the fuel spillage may exceed the allowed 28g during impact and/or exceed the 142g post impact requirement. As of March 31, 2008, there are no known accidents, fires, or injuries attributed to this condition.

573.6 (c) (7) - Basis of Non-Compliance Determination

On February 11, 2008, a 30 mph front impact rigid barrier development test was conducted on a F-250 SRW, 4x4, 156 inch wheel base, pick-up truck equipped with a two piece drive shaft that had been modified in order to evaluate a proposed change in the front suspension. During the test, the fuel tank contacted a cross-member resulting in spillage of stoddard fluid. An engineering investigation was initiated to define factors contributing to the fuel tank movement. Through data

analysis and post-crash evaluation, it was found that the excessive tank movement was the result of a cross-member being deformed by the load transferred through the two piece drive shaft center bearing bracket. This allowed the fuel tank to move and contact a cross-member. It was determined that the drive train, fuel system and frame factors were unique to the subject vehicle. On-going engineering analysis, including design analysis and frame material evaluation was conducted to determine if the condition would exist on production vehicles without the proposed changes in the front suspension was inconclusive. On April 10, 2008, a 30 mph front impact into a rigid barrier was conducted on a production representative F-350 SRW, 4x4, 156 inch wheel base, pick up truck equipped with a two piece drive shaft, during which the fuel tank contacted the cross member and stoddard spillage occurred.

573.6 (c) (8) - Service Program

Ford notified dealers on April 14, 2008, to stop demonstrating or delivering the affected vehicles until the bracket can be installed. Ford will notify owners and instruct them to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln/Mercury dealer to have the bracket installed to their vehicle. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Mailing of owner notification letters will occur during the week of May 26, 2008. Notification to Dealers occurred on April 14, 2008.

In accordance with Part 573.13 (d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this problem 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 does not at this time plan to make a public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the Notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded when available.

573.6 (c) (11) - Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 08C04 to this action.