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By Recall Mangement Division at 1:16 pm, Jul 08, 2014



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

June 30, 2014

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) Safety Recall #14S11 - Certain 2011-2014 Model Year F59
Commercial Chassis Vehicles – Electrical Junction Block Short

In accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Non-compliance Information Reports, please find the applicable information regarding Ford Motor Company's voluntary safety recall #14S11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. M. Kenner".

for Steven M. Kenner
Attachment

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
SAFETY RECALL #14S11: CERTAIN 2011-2014 MODEL YEAR F59 COMMERCIAL CHASSIS
VEHICLES – ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BLOCK SHORT

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 2011-14 model year F59 commercial chassis vehicles built at the Detroit Chassis Plant (DCP) between December 17, 2009, and April 30, 2014.

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), clicking on the "Safety Recalls" link at <http://www.ford.com>, 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 4,867 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

Some of the affected vehicles may contain an electrical junction block that, if operated in a corrosive environment associated with road salt, can form a conductive path between the junction block and the mounting bracket/frame which may lead to a short circuit. As a result, the driver may experience smoke coming from the right front wheel well, a loss of electrical power, or potentially a fire, with or without the engine running.

No reports of vehicle fires have been reported to date as a result of the subject condition.

573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

March 2014: A fleet notified Ford of two instances of smoke emanating from the right front wheel well on 2013 model year F59 commercial chassis vehicles, while the vehicles were parked. The vehicles were located and operated in Michigan.

April 2014: An inspection of these two vehicles by Ford personnel identified the junction block had melted due to an electrical short circuit. Additional vehicles in the fleet were inspected and one other vehicle was identified with a melted junction block. The junction block is in the front, right hand side wheel well and is exposed to road spray. Engineering brought this issue to the attention of Ford's Critical Concern Review Group.

May 2014: A review of the component usage found that this junction block has been used in this location on F59 since the beginning of the 2011 model year. A review of warranty and field reports found an additional four warranty claims of this electrical short condition.

On June 23, 2014, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed this concern and approved a safety field action.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

The F59 is a fleet vehicle that can relocate frequently between states and experience this condition even if not originally sold or currently registered in a corrosion state. Therefore, for affected vehicles in all states dealers will replace the junction block with an improved design. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Dealers will be notified on July 1, 2014. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to occur the week of July 28, 2014.

Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall was provided to the agency on February 20, 2013.

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

National media attention is likely as with most Ford recalls when posted to NHTSA's safecar.gov website. Ford will provide public comments when requested. A news release will not be issued.

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 14S11 to this action.

573.13 (c) (2) – Ending Date for Reimbursement Eligibility

The ending date for reimbursement eligibility for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners per Ford's general reimbursement plan is September 12, 2014.

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