



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAR - 7 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ray Nevi, Assistant Director
Ford Motor Corporation
330 Town Center Drive
Fairland Plaza South, Suite 500
Dearborn, MI 48126

NVS-217ph
DI06-Explorer

Dear Mr. Nevi,

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has received information about certain death incidents reported by Ford Motor Corporation in its light vehicle early warning report for the 3rd quarter of 2003 – 4th quarter 2005. We are writing to request additional information about the following incidents: (Please see the attached excel spreadsheet for all reporting quarters, years, and Sequence IDs).

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

Incident: each incident reported in Sequence IDs identified in the attachment.

Claim and Notice: shall have the meanings stated in 49 CFR §579.4(c). Claim and notice also specifically refer to the claim(s) and notice(s) that are the predicate for the early warning report on the incident.

Manufacturer: refers to Ford Motor Corporation.

Vehicle: the vehicle produced by Ford Motor Corporation that is identified in the claim or notice.

Tire: the tire produced by Ford Motor Corporation that is identified in the claim or notice.



VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE
888-327-4236

Equipment: the item of motor vehicle equipment produced by Ford Motor Corporation that is identified in the claim or notice.

Defect: means any failure, malfunction, lack of durability, or other problem in performance, construction, a component, or material of a motor vehicle or piece of motor vehicle equipment.

Document: "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all written, typed, graphic and photographic matter whatsoever, be it in original, copy or electronic form. Any photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by Ford Motor Corporation or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document. Document(s) includes all documents in Ford Motor Corporation's custody and/or control.

Please provide numbered responses to the following inquiries, repeating the applicable request verbatim before each response. After Ford Motor Corporation's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds to each pertinent information request. A separate response must be provided for each incident. Each response, document or attachment must be clearly identified with the incident Sequence ID (SeqID) number.

1. Provide a complete copy of the claim or notice document(s) that notified Ford Motor Corporation of the incident, including any amendments and supplements thereto, excluding: (a) medical documents and bills, except those showing the cause of death or injury; (b) property damage invoices or estimates; and (c) documents related to damages.
2. Provide a copy of all documents, photographs, videos, received from the claimant(s) or claimant's representative that identify and/or support or purport to support any allegation of a defect in the vehicle, regardless of whether Ford Motor Corporation disputes the assertions therein and excluding: (a) medical documents and bills, except those showing the cause of death or injury; (b) property damage invoices and estimates; and (c) documents related to quantification of damages.
3. Provide a copy of all investigative documents prepared by any local, state, or Federal governmental agency or personnel related to the incident, including but not limited to photographs, Police Accident Reports, or cause and origin reports.
4. At your option, provide Ford Motor Corporation's assessment of the circumstances that led to the incident including Ford Motor Corporation's analysis of the claim and/or notice regarding allegations of a defect.

This letter is being sent to Ford Motor Corporation pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports and the production of things. It constitutes a new request for information. Ford Motor Corporation's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter

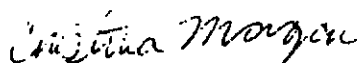
could subject Ford Motor Corporation to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) Section 5(a) of the TREAD Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. § 30165(b), provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day, with a maximum of \$16,050,000 for a related series of violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. See 49 CFR 578.6 (as amended by 69 Fed. Reg. 57864 (Sept. 28, 2004)). This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If Ford Motor Corporation claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, Ford Motor Corporation must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-110), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Your response to this letter, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by **March 17, 2006**. Please include in your response the identification codes referenced on page one of this letter. If you are unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, you must request an extension from me at (202) 366-4238, no later than five business days before the response due date. If all of the information requested by the original deadline is unavailable, you must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information then is available, even if an extension is granted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Leo Yon at (202) 366-7028 or by fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,



Christina Morgan, Chief
Early Warning Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

YearQ	Sequence IDs
2005Q4	49, 51, 56, 57, 58, 62, 63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 100
2005Q3	67,69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 79, 80, 84, 85, 86, 90, 92, 93, 98, 101, 121, 131, 135
2005Q2	96, 99, 106, 107, 109, 112, 115, 123, 130, 131, 178, 179, 443
2005Q1	139, 141, 142, 144, 149, 151, 153, 154, 158, 159, 184, 211
2004Q4	100, 102, 107, 109, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 134, 135, 137, 142, 144, 151, 152, 153, 177, 178, 182, 208
2004Q3	119, 123, 124, 126, 130, 131, 132, 134, 135, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 152, 153, 155, 156, 162, 163, 164, 166, 174, 178, 182, 184, 194, 198, 200, 224, 225, 242, 255, 262, 266
2004Q2	134, 135, 137, 139, 141, 148, 149, 150, 159, 160, 162, 163, 164, 165, 169, 171, 172, 191, 232, 539, 540
2004Q1	89, 101, 102, 109, 111, 120, 123, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 138, 139, 140, 141, 143, 144, 159, 163, 181, 183, 214
2003Q4	92, 93, 94, 95, 102, 105, 106, 115, 116, 117, 121, 124, 127, 128, 130, 132, 133, 134, 141, 148, 149, 156, 192, 193, 198, 444
2003Q3	131, 133, 143, 145, 146, 152, 155, 156, 158, 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 167, 171, 174, 175, 176, 177, 184, 187, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 207, 210, 215, 226, 227, 230, 238, 239, 265, 267, 276, 279, 290, 294, 670, 680