



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

Jul 17 2012

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Steven Kenner, Global Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental and Safety Compliance
Ford Motor Company
330 Town Center Drive, Suite 400
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

NVS-213dlr
PE12-019

Dear Mr. Kenner:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE12-019) to investigate allegations of speed control cable malfunction resulting in incidents of throttles failing to return to idle in model year (MY) 2001 through 2004 Ford Escape vehicles.

This office has received 63 reports alleging speed control cable failure or incidents of throttles failing to return to idle when the accelerator pedal has been released in vehicles that were within the scope of the subject recall. Six of these reports allege failure of the throttle to return to idle when the accelerator pedal is released after the recall remedy was performed. In addition, we have received 10 reports alleging similar symptoms in vehicles that consumers were notified were not part of the subject recall. A copy of each of the reports is enclosed for your information.

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

- **Subject Vehicles:** all MY 2001 through 2004 Ford Escape vehicles equipped with 3.0L V6 engines.
- **Peer Vehicles:** all other MY 2001 through 2004 Ford Escape vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.
- **Subject Recall:** Ford Recall No. 04S25, NHTSA Recall No. 04V-574 (copy enclosed).
- **Subject Recall Update:** October 6, 2005 letter updating the repair instructions for the subject recall (copy enclosed).
- **Subject Component 1:** All speed control cable assemblies manufactured for original equipment or service use in the subject vehicles.

- **Subject Component 2:** All accelerator cable assemblies manufactured for original equipment or service use in the subject vehicles.
- **Ford:** Ford Motor Company, all of *its* past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to *its* principal offices or any of *its* field or other locations, including all of *its* divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of Ford (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after January 1, 1998, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:
 - a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g. quality control);
 - b. Testing, assessment or evaluation;
 - c. Determination of recall repairs, evaluation of recall repairs, modification of recall repairs and input and preparation into documents on recall repairs;
 - d. Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, or lawsuits; or
 - e. Communication to, from or intended for zone representatives, fleets, dealers, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from dealers.
- **Alleged Defect (Subject Vehicles):** One or more of the following symptoms or conditions:
 - 1) Speed control cable assembly failure;
 - 2) Accelerator cable assembly failure;
 - 3) Any interference with the speed control cable assembly or throttle body cam, including from the plastic appearance cover;
 - 4) Failure of the throttle to return to idle when the accelerator pedal is released; or
 - 5) Any incidents alleging prolonged incidents of unwanted engine power while driving that resulted in overheated brakes (e.g., brake smoking, evidence of overheating in post-incident inspection) or led the driver to shift to Neutral or turn the engine off to regain control of the vehicle.
- **Subject Condition (Peer Vehicles):** any allegations involving one or more of the following symptoms or conditions:
 1. Speed control cable assembly failure;
 2. Accelerator cable assembly failure;
 3. Any interference with the speed control cable assembly or throttle body cam, including from the plastic appearance cover;
 4. Failure of the throttle to return to idle when the accelerator pedal is released; or
 5. Any incidents alleging prolonged incidents of unwanted engine power while driving that resulted in overheated brakes (e.g., brake smoking, evidence of

overheating in post-incident inspection) or led the driver to shift to Neutral or turn the engine off to regain control of the vehicle.

- Document:** “Document(s)” is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by Ford, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, “document(s)” also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by Ford or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.
- Other Terms:** To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms “claim,” “consumer complaint,” “dealer field report,” “field report,” “fire,” “fleet,” “good will,” “make,” “model,” “model year,” “notice,” “property damage,” “property damage claim,” “rollover,” “type,” “warranty,” “warranty adjustment,” and “warranty claim,” whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests.

Insofar as Ford has previously provided a document to ODI, Ford may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After Ford's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. State, by model and model year, the number of subject vehicles Ford has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States or a Federalized territory. Separately, for each subject vehicle manufactured to date by Ford, state the following:
 - a. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
 - b. Make;
 - c. Model;
 - d. Model Year;
 - e. Date of manufacture;
 - f. Assembly plant of manufacture;
 - g. Equipped with cruise control as an option (yes/no);
 - h. Subject recall applicability (yes/no);
 - i. Subject recall completion date;
 - j. Date warranty coverage commenced; and
 - k. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD PRODUCTION DATA SUBJECT VEHICLES." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

2. State, by model and model year, the number of peer vehicles Ford has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States or a Federalized territory. Separately, for each peer vehicle manufactured to date by Ford, state the following:
 - a. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
 - b. Make;
 - c. Model;
 - d. Model Year;
 - e. Date of manufacture;
 - f. Equipped with cruise control as an option (yes/no);
 - g. Date warranty coverage commenced; and
 - h. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD PRODUCTION DATA PEER VEHICLES." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

3. State the number of each of the following, received by Ford, or of which Ford is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:
 - a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
 - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
 - c. Reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
 - d. Property damage claims;
 - e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Ford is or was a party to the arbitration; and
 - f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Ford is or was a defendant or codefendant.
 - g. Expert reports prepared by Ford and provided to the opposing party, or provided by the opposing party and given to Ford regarding matters in litigation or arbitration, other than as to damages.

For subparts "a" through "c" state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "d" through "g" provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Ford's assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "e" and "f" identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

4. Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 3, state the following information:
 - a. Ford's file number or other identifier used;
 - b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 3 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
 - c. Vehicle owner's or fleet name (and fleet contact person),
 - d. Vehicle owner's or fleet address
 - e. Vehicle owner's or fleet telephone number
 - f. Vehicle's VIN;
 - g. Vehicle's make;
 - h. Vehicle's model;
 - i. Vehicle's model year;
 - j. Vehicle's mileage at time of incident;
 - k. Incident date;
 - l. Report or claim date;

- m. Whether a crash is alleged;
- n. Whether property damage is alleged;
- o. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
- p. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD REQUEST NUMBER THREE DATA (SUBJECT)." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

5. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 3. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method Ford used for organizing the documents.
6. State the number of each of the following, received by Ford, or of which Ford is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the peer vehicles:
 - a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
 - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
 - c. Reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
 - d. Property damage claims;
 - e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Ford is or was a party to the arbitration; and
 - f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Ford is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "d" state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "c" through "f" provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Ford's assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "e" and "f" identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

7. Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 2, state the following information:
 - a. Ford's file number or other identifier used;
 - b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 2 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
 - c. Vehicle owner's or fleet name (and fleet contact person);
 - d. Vehicle owner's or fleet address;
 - e. Vehicle owner's or fleet telephone number;

- f. Vehicle's VIN;
- g. Vehicle's make;
- h. Vehicle's model;
- i. Vehicle's model year;
- j. Vehicle's mileage at time of incident;
- k. Incident date;
- l. Report or claim date;
- m. Whether a crash is alleged;
- n. Whether property damage is alleged;
- o. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
- p. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD REQUEST NUMBER SIX DATA (PEERS)." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

- 8. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 6. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method Ford used for organizing the documents.
- 9. State, by model and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by Ford to date that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign.

Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

- a. Ford's claim number;
- b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
- c. VIN;
- d. Repair date;
- e. Vehicle mileage at time of repair;
- f. Repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code;
- g. Labor operation number;
- h. Problem code;
- i. Whether the claim is related to the subject recall remedy;
- j. Whether brake component overheating/damage was noted or included in the repairs;
- k. Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
- l. Concern stated by customer; and
- m. Comment, if any, by dealer/technician relating to claim and/or repair.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD WARRANTY DATA SUBJECT VEHICLES." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

10. Describe in detail the search criteria used by Ford to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 9, including the labor operations, problem codes, part numbers and any other pertinent parameters used. Provide a list of all labor operations, labor operation descriptions, problem codes, and problem code descriptions applicable to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. State, by make and model year, the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by Ford on the subject vehicles (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s) that Ford offered for the subject vehicles and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty.
11. Produce copies of all service, warranty, and other documents that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, that Ford has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities. This includes, but is not limited to, bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other documents or communications, with the exception of standard shop manuals. Also include the latest draft copy of any communication that Ford is planning to issue within the next 120 days.
12. State, by model and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by Ford to date that relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the peer vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign.

Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

- a. Ford's claim number;
- b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
- c. VIN;
- d. Repair date;
- e. Vehicle mileage at time of repair;
- f. Repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code;
- g. Labor operation number;
- h. Problem code;
- i. Whether the claim is related to the subject recall remedy;
- j. Whether brake component overheating/damage was noted or included in the repairs;
- k. Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
- l. Concern stated by customer; and
- m. Comment, if any, by dealer/technician relating to claim and/or repair.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "PE12-019 FORD WARRANTY DATA PEER VEHICLES." See Enclosure, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

13. Describe in detail the search criteria used by Ford to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 12, including the labor operations, problem codes, part numbers and any other pertinent parameters used. Provide a list of all labor operations, labor operation descriptions, problem codes, and problem code descriptions applicable to the subject condition in the peer vehicles. State, by make and model year, the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by Ford on the peer vehicles (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s) that Ford offered for the peer vehicles and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty.
14. Produce copies of all service, warranty, and other documents that relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the peer vehicles, that Ford has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities. This includes, but is not limited to, bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other documents or communications, with the exception of standard shop manuals. Also include the latest draft copy of any communication that Ford is planning to issue within the next 120 days.
15. Describe all assessments, analyses, tests, test results, studies, surveys, simulations, investigations, inquiries and/or evaluations (collectively, "actions") that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles that have been conducted, are being conducted, are planned, or are being planned by, or for, Ford. For each such action, provide the following information:
 - a. Action title or identifier;
 - b. The actual or planned start date;
 - c. The actual or expected end date;
 - d. Brief summary of the subject and objective of the action;
 - e. Engineering group(s)/supplier(s) responsible for designing and for conducting the action; and
 - f. A brief summary of the findings and/or conclusions resulting from the action.

For each action identified, provide copies of all documents related to the action, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Organize the documents chronologically by action.

16. Describe all modifications or changes made by, or on behalf of, Ford in the design, material composition, manufacture, quality control, supply, or installation of the subject component, from the start of production to date, which relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. For each such modification or change, provide the following information:
 - a. The date or approximate date on which the modification or change was incorporated into vehicle production;
 - b. A detailed description of the modification or change;
 - c. The reason(s) for the modification or change;
 - d. The part number(s) (service and engineering) of the original component;

- e. The part number(s) (service and engineering) of the modified component;
- f. Whether the original unmodified component was withdrawn from production and/or sale, and if so, when;
- g. When the modified component was made available as a service component; and
- h. Whether the modified component can be interchanged with earlier production components.

Also, provide the above information for any modification or change that Ford is aware of which may be incorporated into vehicle production within the next 120 days.

17. Provide the following information regarding the subject components:

- a. Provide copies of all failure mode and effects analyses (FMEA);
- b. Provide copies of all engineering specifications or other performance requirements;
- c. Provide a detailed description of all durability testing and copies of related test results;
- d. A list of all of the parts/subcomponents used in the subject component assembly, including a picture or drawing of each part, the name of the part, the material composition of the part, the ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) and Ford material specification/call-outs for all plastic parts; and
- e. Picture or drawing of the assembled part with all parts/subcomponents labeled.

18. Identify all subject component failure modes that Ford has identified, including those alleged by consumers or third parties, that may result in a throttle interference condition (i.e., failure of the throttle to return to idle) and provide the following information about each:

- a. A description of the failure mode based on the location and affected subcomponents;
- b. A photograph or drawing the subject component with the location of each failure mode marked/labeled;
- c. A representative sample of a field return part displaying the condition (if sample parts are not available, provide photographs showing the condition);
- d. Ford's assessment of the known or suspected causes of the condition;
- e. Ford's assessment of the maximum throttle position (in percent throttle) that could be caused by the condition, including a detailed description of how the assessment was made;
- f. An Excel file entitled, "PE12-019 FAILURE MODE ANALYSIS", listing all incidents that have been confirmed or alleged for each condition, with the following information: (1) vehicle identification number; (2) incident date; (3) whether the subject component(s) was returned to Ford for inspection, testing or analysis; (4) whether photographs of the failure were taken; (5) summary of allegations regarding failure mode, cause(s) and incident severity; and (6) Ford assessment of failure mode, cause(s) and incident severity; and
- g. A summary of all surveys, tests or other efforts conducted by, or for, Ford to assess the potential causes, frequency and/or severity of each condition.

Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request #18.

Organize the documents by category and describe the method Ford used for organizing the documents.

19. State the number of subject components that Ford has sold that may be used in the subject vehicles by component name, part number (both service and engineering/production), model and model year of the vehicle in which it is used and month/year of sale (*including the cut-off date for sales, if applicable*).

For each component part number, provide the supplier's name, address, and appropriate point of contact (name, title, and telephone number). Also identify by make, model and model year, all vehicle applications that use the component, whether installed in production or in service, and state the applicable dates of production or service usage.

20. The subject update includes the following statement:

“REASON FOR THIS UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to inform dealers that updated illustrations and a warning have been added to the technical instructions (Attachment III) to help prevent damage to the speed control cable while performing the accelerator cable replacement procedure. In addition, warranty edits have been incorporated to prevent the payment of related damage claims for speed control cable replacement.”

Provide the following information regarding the subject recall update:

- a. A detailed description of the speed control cable damage that could result from performing the accelerator cable replacement procedure;
 - b. A detailed description of the known or suspected actions by dealer repair technicians (or others) that Ford has identified as causing, or contributing to, speed control cable damage, including a description of the type and location of damage and its effect on speed control cable operation;
 - c. A description of the “warranty edits” referenced in the statement above and their effect on warranty claim payments that may relate to the alleged defect, including the date the subject edits became effective;
 - d. A chronology of all events from the start of the subject recall to the issuance of the update and since that relate in any way to the subject of speed control cable damage that may have resulted, in whole or in part, from completion of the subject recall repair procedure;
 - e. All actions taken by Ford to assess the scope and frequency of potential damage to the speed control cable before and after issuing the subject update ; and
 - f. All actions taken by Ford to assess the potential failure modes and associated safety consequences that may result from the speed control cable damage before and after issuing the subject update.
21. Provide copies of all communications to and from Mazda North American Operations (or Mazda Motor Corporation) regarding problems related to Ford Recall No. 04S25 and Mazda Recall No. 2704L before October 6, 2005 and communications with Mazda related to what became or was the subject recall update including potential for speed control cable assembly damage occurring during accelerator cable replacement.

22. Identify all repair procedures in the subject vehicles that: (a) may involve removal or disturbance of the accelerator cable or speed control cable from the throttle body cam; or (b) Ford believes may result in damage to the accelerator or speed control cables and provide the following information about each:
- a. A copy of the repair procedure;
 - b. Counts by subject recall applicability, model year, engine and claim year for all warranty claims (including extended warranty) related to the procedure/labor operation; and
 - c. If the procedure involves a part replacement (e.g., throttle body), state the applicable part sales numbers by calendar year.
23. Furnish Ford's assessment of the alleged defect in the subject vehicle, including:
- a. The causal or contributory factor(s);
 - b. The failure mechanism(s);
 - c. The failure mode(s);
 - d. The risk to motor vehicle safety that it poses;
 - e. What warnings, if any, the operator and the other persons both inside and outside the vehicle would have that the alleged defect was occurring or subject component was malfunctioning; and
 - f. The reports included with this inquiry.

This letter is being sent to Ford 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's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject Ford 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(a), provides for civil penalties of up to \$6,000 per day, with a maximum of \$17,350,000 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 75 Fed. Reg. 79978 (Dec 21, 2010)). This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If Ford cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, Ford does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, Ford must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

Ford's response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by September 4, 2012. **All business confidential information must be submitted directly to the Office of Chief Counsel as described in the following paragraph and should not be sent to this office.** In addition, do not submit any business confidential information in the body of the letter submitted to this office. Please refer to PE12-### in Ford's response to this letter and in any confidentiality request submitted to the Office of

Chief Counsel. If Ford finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, Ford must request an extension from me at (202) 366-5207 no later than five business days before the response due date. If Ford is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information Ford then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If Ford 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 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, to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Ford is required to **submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted.** Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6. If you submit a request for confidentiality for all or part of your response to this IR, that is in an electronic format (e.g., CD-ROM), your request and associated submission must conform to the new requirements in NHTSA's Confidential Business Information Rule regarding submissions in electronic formats (49 CFR 512.6(c)). See Federal Register, volume 72, page 59434 (October 19, 2007).

Please send email notification to Derek Rinehardt (derek.rinehardt@dot.gov) and to ODI_IRresponse@dot.gov when Ford sends its response to this office and indicate whether there is confidential information as part of Ford response.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call Derek Rinehardt of my staff at (202) 366-5207.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Quandt, Chief
Vehicle Control Division
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure: One CD ROM titled PE12-019 a Data Collection Disc containing 7 files:

PE12-019 FORD PRODUCTION DATA SUBJECT VEHICLES.ACCDB
PE12-019 FORD PRODUCTION DATA PEER VEHICLES.ACCDB
PE12-019 FORD REQUEST NUMBER THREE DATA (SUBJECT).ACCDB

PE12-019 FORD REQUEST NUMBER SIX DATA (PEERS).ACCDB
PE12-019 FORD WARRANTY DATA SUBJECT VEHICLES.ACCDB
PE12-019 FORD WARRANTY DATA PEERVEHICLES.ACCDB
PE12-019 FORD ASSOCIATED VOQS.PDF

The VOQs associated with this Information Request are:

10466261, 10461385, 10451652, 10448595, 10438929, 10432635, 10379444, 10370338,
10363982, 10345004, 10344906, 10342450, 10341773, 10335779, 10335100, 10334038,
10331278, 10325817, 10323339, 10321828, 10319481, 10316154, 10303434, 10303282,
10303127, 10291508, 10273613, 10266150, 10260591, 10259777, 10258046, 10256387,
10255417, 10234846, 10232148, 10229600, 10228912, 10222869, 10218668, 10214472,
10207677, 10204179, 10203178, 10201424, 10199728, 10195378, 10184382, 10177337,
10165007, 10164205, 10164066, 10159048, 10155817, 10155295, 10153327, 10147995,
10138586, 10137520, 10132929, 10130133, 10128681, 10128545, 10125928, 10121108,
10116574, 10116267, 10110333, 10109921, 10103564, 10082561, 10081360, 10055224,
891265