

April 6, 2009

Ms, Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation Safety Assurance National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 1200
New Jersey Avenue, SENV45-302
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Subject: PE08-060:NVS-213cml

This letter is to confirm Ford Motor Company (Ford) discussions with the agency concerning a letter that Ford will mail to owners of certain 2007 and 2008 model year Ford, Lincoln, and Mercury vehicles concerning tire valve performance on those vehicles, which is the subject of NHTSA investigation PEO8-060. During the investigation Ford became aware that some tire valves produced during a certain time period may not have received an anti-ozone chemical and, over time, may exhibit surface cracks. If the cracks are not identified and the valves are not replaced, the cracks may propagate and result in a slow tire air loss. As the agency is aware, tire valves are not designed to last for the life of the vehicle and are expected to be replaced when a tire is replaced.

Ford will send a letter to owners reminding them of the importance of maintaining proper tire inflation pressure and observing physical conditions (such as tread depth, abnormal wear patterns, bumps, bruises, scrapes, etc.), as described in the vehicle owner and maintenance guides. The letter also will include information describing proper inspection of tire valves. Note that there will be separate letters for vehicles with and without Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS). Ford is working with R. L. Polk and Company to obtain updated customer data from all states, including those that do not typically release customer contact information for general information letters. We expect the mailings to begin as soon as the required customer contact information is obtained - approximately mid-May, 2009. As discussed with the agency, Ford plans to mail this letter to the owners of the vehicles listed in Table 1 below.

Additionally, Ford is adding information related to tire valve inspection to the routine tire maintenance information contained in the vehicle owner guide and maintenance guide included with each vehicle. Ford Customer Service Division is adding tire valve inspections to the vehicle "Multi-Point Inspection" form utilized by dealers during routine vehicle checks and maintenance procedures, such as oil changes.

As agreed with the agency in a March 18, 2009, telephone call between Ford and agency personnel, Ford will provide the agency with the first four months of data related to repairs associated with this owner notification.