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February 13, 2008

Nicole R. Nason, Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE W42-308  
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: VIN Coordinator

Dear Ms. Nason:

Subject: 2008 Model Year Vehicle Identification Number Notification

Ford Motor Company has determined that the character in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the vehicle identification number (VIN) for certain 2008 model year Econoline and F-Super Duty vehicles does not satisfy Part 565.6 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) content requirements. Specifically, for vehicles under 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), Part 565.6 requires the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the VIN be an alphabetic character. Because of the equipment available for Econoline and F-Super Duty vehicles and Ford's voluntary identification of restraint type within that section of the VIN, all but one available letter of the alphabet had already been used in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the VIN for 2007 model year vehicles. Introduction of the new restraint type category "Active belts - less passenger air bag" for 2008 model year led Ford to inadvertently introduce a numeric character in the 4<sup>th</sup> position of the VIN. Only a limited number of 2008 model year Econoline and F-Super Duty vehicles less than 10,000 lbs. GVWR with "active belts - less passenger air bag" are affected (approximately 1,500 vehicles). The restraint type designation (4<sup>th</sup> position of the VIN) for vehicles less than 10,000 lbs. GVWR has been corrected for the 2009 model year to only include alphabetic characters.

Additionally, Ford has been assigned World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) 1FM for a multipurpose passenger vehicle (MPV) and 1FB for a bus. For the 2008 model year, Ford introduced a new Econoline wagon with 11 seating positions. Part 571.3 of Title 49 of the CFR defines a bus as a vehicle capable of carrying more than 10 persons. However, Ford inadvertently classified the vehicle as a MPV (1FM). The designation for the 11 passenger Econoline bus WMI (1FB) was corrected during the 2008 model year and only a limited number of 11 passenger Econoline vehicles were manufactured with the incorrect WMI (approximately 100 vehicles).

This letter is to inform the agency of these conditions and Ford actions that have been implemented to address each, respectively. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ES08-001238

*for Stephen J. Vondale*  
James P. Vondale

