



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 6, 2018

Mr. Todd Fronckowiak  
Assistant Director, Global Automotive Safety Compliance  
Ford Motor Company  
Fairlane Plaza South, Suite #500  
330 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

NEF-150JK  
18V-470

**Subject:** Improperly Heat Treated Front Wheel Studs

Dear Mr. Fronckowiak:

This letter serves to acknowledge Ford Motor Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

FORD/F53/2018

**Mfr's Report Date:** July 16, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-470

**Components:**

WHEELS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 162

**Problem Description:**

Ford Motor Company (Ford) is recalling certain 2018 Ford F53 stripped chassis vehicles equipped with 22.5 inch front wheels. The front wheel hub assembly may have wheel studs that were not properly heat treated.

**Consequence:**

If a sufficient quantity of wheel studs break on one hub, vehicle handling could be affected, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Ford will notify owners, and dealers will replace any suspect front wheel hub studs, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin August 13, 2018. Owners may contact Ford customers service at 1-866-436-7332. Ford's number for this recall is 18S21.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

We note that your report states that Ford has not yet determined that wheel hubs with improperly heat treated wheel studs present an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety. In our view, this statement has no force or effect in terms of Ford's obligation to undertake and complete the recall and NHTSA does not agree with it. Additionally, we request a timeline of when Ford will be able to determine if a safety risk exists and expect a report of Ford's findings after Ford has made a conclusion.

Please provide a list of the 5 affected upfitters, identifying which ones fully contained the chassis and which ones may have released vehicles to end users prior to being inspected and remedied as necessary.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

We have received Ford's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-2461, or by email at [jennifer.kruger@dot.gov](mailto:jennifer.kruger@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement