

November 12, 2019

Ford FSA 19S41

19S41 – CERTAIN 2016-17 FORD MKX VEHICLES WITH SUBSTANDARD CLEARANCE
BETWEEN THE B+ WIRING HARNESS AND THE TRANSMISSION SHIFTER CABLE
BRACKET

Chronology of events

May 2019: On May 21, 2019 an issue regarding three 3.7L MKX underhood fires was brought to CCRG for review. Vehicle inspections had been unable to identify a source for the fires, although they were believed to be electrical in nature.

A review of the 3.7L wiring package found that design and process changes had been made in September of 2017 to address substandard clearances between electrical wiring and hardware in this area. The vehicles associated with the three reports reviewed with CCRG were each built prior to that design change.

June – August 2019: CCRG requested a review of field data for similar reports. The data search identified five warranty claims involving battery harness wire contact with the transmission shifter bracket that did not result in fire. One of the three vehicles brought to CCRG for review in May was found to have had a battery replacement 3 days before the fire. These vehicles were all built prior to incorporation of the September, 2017 design and process changes. Vehicle reviews were conducted to evaluate wiring package clearances to underhood components. Vehicle inspections identified a sharper than expected shifter cable bracket edge in proximity to the battery cable on one vehicle. Further study, including CAD analysis, was conducted to understand potential wire harness movement during vehicle operation, including analysis with mispositioned or dislodged wire harness locator pins. CCRG requested a review of service procedures for components in the area, including battery replacement.

September – November 2019: Analysis of service procedures identified that battery replacement required removal of the battery cable harness and clips to allow sliding the battery from underneath the cowl. This procedure may inadvertently diminish cable clearance to the shift cable bracket.

On November 4, 2019, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is aware of three vehicle fires potentially related to this issue. There have been no vehicle fire since 11/14/2018 related to this issue.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this issue.