

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 20V-098

**Manufacturer Name :** Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** FEB 24, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-098**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 20S08**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Ford Motor Company

Address : 330 Town Center Drive

Suite 500 Dearborn MI 48126-2738

Company phone : 1-866-436-7332

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 13,854

Estimated percentage with defect : 2 %

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2016 Ford F-150

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : GAS

**Descriptive Information :** Affected vehicles are equipped 3.5L GTDI engines and block immersion heaters that were potentially relocated from their original production location prior to completion of field service action 19G01.

These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

Production Dates : JUL 31, 2014 - OCT 15, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

**Description of the Defect :** For vehicles equipped with an engine block heater, a block heater cable that is in proximity to higher engine temperatures and does not have sufficient heat protection may become damaged. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause a resistive short, inoperative engine block heater, and/or tripping of household breakers or GFCI equipped outlets while the vehicle is parked and the block heater is plugged in.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** The risk to safety only exists while the vehicle is parked and the block heater cable is plugged into an electrical outlet. A resistive short in the engine block

heater splice connector can increase the risk of overheated or melted wiring and fire.

**Description of the Cause :** The process used for releasing engine block heater cables for the 19G01/19S11 program did not identify those associated with Technical Service Bulletins that relocated block heaters to a different location on the engine, requiring a unique engine block heater cable design.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** The block heater may become inoperative, the household breaker or outlet GFCI may trip, and the user may hear buzzing or sizzling noise, or observe smoke and/or sparks when the cable is plugged into a wall outlet.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

## Chronology :

October 2019 – December 2019

An issue concerning potential block heater cable incompatibility on certain 2015-16 MY F-150 vehicles with 3.5L GTDI was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. A Technical Service Bulletin had introduced a repair option to relocate the heater element to an alternate port in the engine block for customers complaining of poor cold-start concerns. This TSB service action replaced the original block heater cable with a shorter cable that included heat protective tape and a heat shield to protect the cable from heat in this alternate location.

Block heater cables provided under Ford field service action 19G01/19S11 did not account for this different engine block mounting location installed on a small number of 2015-2016 model year with 3.5L GTDI engines vehicles that utilized the TSB repair. The 19G01 cables were found to be approximately 0.5m longer and do not contain the heat protection which was present on the TSB cables. A test program was developed to assess the suitability of the 19G01 cables in the alternate block mounting location. A thorough assessment was also undertaken to identify any additional TSBs or service actions that might also relate to this subject.

January 2020

A second TSB service action was also identified that may introduce similar incompatibility as that initially identified. Material analysis indicated that the heat profile in these alternate mounting locations may exceed the limits of block heater cables without appropriate heat protective tape and shielding.

Physical tests were conducted and confirmed that the absence of heat protection and the excess cable length in proximity to other engine components could result in cable damage.

On February 14, 2020, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action

Ford is not aware of any reports of fire, accident or injury related to this condition.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the block heater and cable inspected. If the vehicle has a heater element installed in the engine's thermostat housing, no repair is necessary. If the block heater is mounted in the engine block in accordance with the TSB actions, the vehicle will require repair. If the block heater cable and heater element have a rectangular connector then the heater element and block heater cable will be replaced. If the block heater cable and heater element have a round connector only the block heater cable will be replaced.

If parts are available, the dealer will perform the service as specified. If parts are not available, the dealership will disable the vehicle's engine block heater cable by removing the plug end prongs and sealing the end cap with silicone sealant. The customer will receive an information sheet highlighting that the block heater is not to be used. Owners will then be notified when replacement block heater cables become available.

There will be no charge for this service.

Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs because the original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers to the agency when available.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** The remedy engine block heater cable (Ford PN GL3Z-6B108-B) will be of the correct length and include heat protective tape and connector heat shield for use with the 2015-2016 MY 3.5L GTDI engine block mounted heaters. .

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** The Technical Service Bulletins (TSBs) and 19G01 have been updated with the compatible engine block heater cable of appropriate length and heat protections for 2015-2016 MY 3.5L GTDI engine block mounted heaters.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Notification to dealers is expected to occur on February 24, 2020. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin April 6, 2020 and is expected to be completed by April 10, 2020.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 24, 2020 - FEB 24, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 06, 2020 - APR 10, 2020

\* NR - Not Reported