

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 21V-379

**Manufacturer Name :** Ford Motor Company

**Submission Date :** MAY 24, 2021

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-379

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 21S23



## 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 :** 1,796

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 5 %

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2021-2021 Ford F-Super Duty; 350/450

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** PICKUP TRUCK

**Power Train :** DIESEL

**Descriptive Information :** Affected vehicles are equipped with a pick-up box.

Ford's team reviewed supplier process and maintenance records to determine the population of affected parts.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information.

F-350 Vehicles Affected: 1,079

F-450 Vehicles Affected: 717

**Production Dates :** NOV 12, 2020 - DEC 04, 2020

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Affected vehicles are built with a fifth wheel left-hand mounting bracket that may be cracked

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** While towing a trailer, the 5th wheel assembly may become loose and may ultimately detach from the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Description of the Cause :** Manufacturing issues during the bracket stamping and forming process may have caused bracket galling, which could result in a crack.

**Identification of Any Warning :** Customer towing a trailer while using a 5th wheel with a cracked left-hand

that can Occur : mounting bracket may experience loud knocks/clanks while accelerating and abnormal vibration.

## Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : LH 5th Wheel Bracket

Component Description : Left Hand 5TH wheel braket

Component Part Number : 22L661

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : BOWLING GREEN METALFORMING LLC

Address : 111 COSMA DRIVE  
Bowling Green Kentucky 42101

Country : United States

## Chronology :

On December 10, 2020 an issue pertaining to a cracked left-hand 5th wheel mounting bracket was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) for review. The supplier identified a split condition on the left-hand 5th wheel inner bracket while performing a standard inspection/staging process for service parts. Investigation found the same inner bracket part number is welded to frames shipped to Ford. A stop ship was issued for vehicles built with these 5th wheel frame brackets.

January – April 2020: A review of supplier processes identified a potential concern with the forming process for left-hand brackets that were provided to Ford. Initial CAE analysis was conducted to evaluate the effect of a cracked left-hand bracket and identified the potential for reduced load carrying capability under certain trailer tow conditions.

Vehicle testing was performed to assess performance characteristics with a cracked left-hand 5th wheel bracket. This testing found that towing a trailer while using a 5th wheel with a cracked left-hand bracket resulted in loud knocks/clanks while accelerating and abnormal vibration with no degradation in lateral stability of the truck/trailer combination.

Detailed CAE analysis found that diesel equipped F-350/450 DRW pick-up vehicles with a cracked left-hand 5th wheel inner bracket may not meet published trailer tow capacities, which can exceed 22.8K lbs.

On May 17th, 2021, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

Ford is not aware of any reports of 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 5th wheel frame left-hand mounting bracket inspected for cracks/splitting and replace as required per technical instructions. 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 :** Replacement brackets will not have forming-related cracks.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** NR

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Notification to dealers is expected to occur on 5/25/21. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin 6/21/21 and is expected to be completed by 6/25/21.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** MAY 25, 2021 - MAY 25, 2021

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** JUN 21, 2021 - JUN 25, 2021

\* NR - Not Reported