

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-983

Manufacturer Name : Ford Motor Company**Submission Date :** DEC 16, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-983**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 21S53**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 : 57,591

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2018 Ford F-150

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : ALL

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Affected manual and power release tailgate vehicles are equipped with suspect tailgate latches. The recalled part was introduced into production at the Dearborn Truck Plant on 02/07/2018 and was taken out of production on 04/16/2018.

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 : FEB 07, 2018 - APR 16, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Affected vehicles were built with a tailgate latch that may unlatch under certain dynamic loading conditions. This could cause unintended opening of the tailgate while the vehicle is in motion.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Unintended tailgate opening without vehicle operator knowledge may result in loss of unrestrained cargo increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : The suspect tailgate latch design incorporates a latch pawl that is perpendicular to the catch mechanism. This latch design is susceptible to pawl walkout (unlatching) under certain dynamic loading conditions in this tailgate application.

Identification of Any Warning : Unintended tailgate opening may be apparent to an operator if it occurs prior that can Occur : to entering the vehicle.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Tailgate Latch

Component Description : Tailgate Latch (manual latch)

Component Part Number : JL3A-9943150-AC

Component Name 2 : Tailgate Latch

Component Description : Tailgate Latch (manual latch with an ajar switch)

Component Part Number : JL3A-9943150-BC

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Magna Closures Inc

Address : 2066 Line 8

Bradford West Gwillmbury Ontario Foreign States L3Z3P9

Country : Canada

Chronology :

On September 27, 2021, an issue pertaining to certain 2018 Model Year F-150 vehicles built with a suspect tailgate latch was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group for review.

As part of a concurrent, broader investigation into reports of unintended tailgate opening on 2015-2020MY F150 power release systems, Ford identified a subpopulation of vehicles that were built with a different tailgate latch design.

A review of Ford's records found that this suspect tailgate latch was implemented into production at Dearborn Truck Plant (DTP) on February 7, 2018 for both the manual release and power release tailgate systems. An interim containment action (ICA) was implemented to replace the tailgate bumpers with bumpers containing a modified profile, in order to reduce the load on the tailgate latches. For further robustness, a permanent corrective action (PCA) involved reverting to the initial latch design on April 16, 2018. F-150 vehicles produced at Ford's Kansas City Assembly Plant were not built with the suspect latch design.

During the current investigation, analysis of the suspect latch design and testing identified that the suspect tailgate latch incorporates a latch pawl that is perpendicular to the catch. This perpendicular latch design is susceptible to pawl walkout (unlatching) under certain dynamic loading conditions in this tailgate application.

As of October 25, 2021, approximately 400 vehicles had a suspect latch repaired under warranty.

On December 9, 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 both the left hand and right hand tailgate latches replaced. There will be no charge for this service.

Ford provided the general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall in May 2021. The ending date for reimbursement eligibility is February 21, 2022.

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

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The recalled tailgate latches (JL3A-9943150-AC and JL3A-9943150-BC) will be replaced with tailgate latches that incorporate a different latch pawl design (5L3Z-9943150-A).

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : On April 16, 2018, Dearborn Truck Plant reverted to the initial latch design. Vehicles not included in this recall were built with latches that incorporate a different latch pawl design.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Notification to dealers is expected to occur on December 17, 2021. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin January 31, 2022 and is expected to be completed by February 4, 2022.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : DEC 17, 2021 - DEC 17, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : JAN 31, 2022 - FEB 04, 2022

* NR - Not Reported