

Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 22S44 Chronology

22S44 – CERTAIN 2021-2022 MODEL YEAR BRONCO VEHICLES WITH FOUR DOORS – CHILD SAFETY LOCK

Date of Submission: June 10, 2022

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision.

March 2022: On March 17, 2022, Ford's Critical Concern Review Group (CCRG) opened an investigation into reports from Michigan Assembly Plant of non-functional child safety locks on right-hand rear doors of 2021-2022 model year (MY) Bronco four-door vehicles.

The CCRG investigation found that the first non-functional child safety lock was identified during a quality audit at Michigan Assembly Plant on March 2, 2022. In that audit, the right-hand rear door of a 2022 MY Bronco vehicle was opened using the inside door handle with the child safety lock in the "ON" position. Initial investigation did not identify any contributing factors on this vehicle. All vehicles at the plant were quarantined and inspected for this condition, with 1.5% exhibiting the condition on rear right-hand latches and no reports on rear left-hand latches.

Enhanced inspection protocols were also implemented at the rear door latch module supplier because the rear door latch module includes the child safety lock mechanism. The supplier inspection found that the child safety locks were functional prior to installation in the sheet metal doors.

Subsequent investigation and vehicle audits were undertaken to identify potential system interaction contributors that could lead to a door being opened from the inside with the child safety lock in the "ON" position.

April - May 2022: Further CCRG investigation identified that the right-hand rear door latch attachment hole locations on the door sheet metal were out of design specification due to a manufacturing tolerance expansion. The resulting variation in sheet metal attachment hole locations could cause deformation of the latch housing and frame plate when attached to the door, potentially affecting proper function of the child safety lock. Child safety lock functionality was found to be restored with subsequent installation of a new latch module due to slight changes in the sheet metal latch attachment holes caused by installation of the original latch module.

Left-hand rear door sheet metal attachment hole locations were also found to be out of design specification, but at a level that did not affect child safety lock functionality on left-hand rear doors. There are no reports from the field of left rear child lock malfunction.

Door latch attachment hole locations on the rear door sheet metal assemblies were returned to design specification positions at Ford's stamping plant, without the manufacturing tolerance expansion, which corrected the concern. Review of sheet metal stamping plant records did not identify any changes or factors believed to contribute to out-of-specification sheet metal attachment hole location dating from Job #1 through the date of the vehicle stop-ship. Ford is not aware of any warranty or field reports related to this concern.

On **June 3, 2022**, Ford's Field Review Committee (FRC) reviewed the concern and approved a field action for the right rear child safety lock on vehicles produced between September 23,

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2020, and April 11, 2022. Out of an abundance of caution, the FRC approval also included inspection and replacement (if necessary) of the left rear child safety lock.

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