

The agency has closed this investigation based on its review of complaint reports, field and technical data provided by Ford and complainant interviews.

Ford found that some lighting control modules (lcm) in the subject vehicles contained defective solder joints on the printed circuit board. This condition can lead to poor headlight performance ranging from intermittent outage and dimming to eventual headlights failure. The failure does not affect other lighting functions (park, emergency flasher, brake and flash to pass lights).

The agency is aware of a total of 306 consumers complaints and no report of crash, injury or fatality. Ford reports 2,074 warranty claims related to headlight failure linked to the lcm during the first three years of operation. About 12% (247) of these claims are specific to headlight failure while driving. The average warranty rate for headlight failing while driving is low (0.05%). Ford reports a slightly higher warranty rate experienced for the Crown Victoria police interceptor vehicles and this is attributed to the higher duty cycle of these vehicles (headlights on for longer periods).

A safety-related defect has not been identified at this time and further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. Accordingly, this investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will monitor this issue and reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.