



STATEMENT

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF SAFETY BELT ASSEMBLIES

DEARBORN, Mich., June 1, 2004 – Ford Motor Company recommends replacement of all safety belt assemblies in use at the time a vehicle is involved in an accident.

However, if the collision was minor and a qualified technician finds that safety belt assemblies do not show damage and continue to operate properly, they do not need to be replaced. Safety belt assemblies not in use during a collision should also be inspected and replaced if either damage or improper operation is noted.

Before installing a new safety belt assembly, the safety belt attaching areas must be inspected for damage and distortion. If the attaching points are damaged or distorted, the sheet metal must be reworked back to its original shape and structural integrity. Also, be sure that if new safety belt service parts are needed, they are intended specifically for the vehicle in which they are being installed.

Ford Motor Company describes recommended functional testing procedures for both shoulder harnesses and lap belts and retractors in Ford Technical Service Bulletin 85-2-4, and in Ford service manuals.

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