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Ford Explorer '02 Mast Antenna

The 2002 Ford Explorer mast radio antenna is located on the RH fender near the outer radius. Testing in a car wash performed by the ICA and Ford Engineering has indicated that some Explorer antenna's may exhibit damage caused by the rotating soft cloth side curtains. The cause of the damage is a result of the plastic fender insert popping loose which allows the antenna to become bent.

Ford Motor Company has issued a Special Service Message Number (SSM-14981) to all Ford Dealers alerting them of this concern. If the 2002 Explorer antenna is damaged in your car wash, explain the condition to your customer and have them return it to their dealer for a full warranty coverage.

In order to prevent this damage, I recommend , if possible, to remove the antenna from the vehicle before it goes through the car wash and replace it afterwards until corrective action is provided by Ford.

Ford Motor Company is currently revising the antenna attaching bracket and plastic insert to resolve the problem. No date is available for the new design incorporation. I will publish any new information as soon as it becomes available.

Joe Ward
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