



# The Elusive GT Mustang Build Date

Since the beginning of Mustang production, we have been eluded by certain facts and more or less have played a guessing game when it comes to determining what really was. Take, for instance the first day of Mustang production in 1964. You would think that this day would be well documented, but in reality we only have some information gathered by people "known to be there that day." As it is, neither Ford nor any of us can say for sure if 5F08F100001 was actually built before or after 5F07U100002. These small, but important, nuances leave us yearning for the truth.

The introduction of the GT Mustang in 1965 is another undocumented production change that we cannot document as starting on a certain day. In the past, it has been generally accepted that any 1965 Mustang with a scheduled build date after January 1, 1965, could theoretically have been a factory-made GT Mustang. However, it has become evident that this really is not acceptable based on what has been learned. After careful consideration, it was agreed that the MCA Judging Rulebook should be changed to state: "GT Cars: Built after mid-February, 1965. Engine code A or K, exceptions with documentation." There are two main considerations for this change, which we should be aware of; they are described next.

First, an interesting piece of evidence is derived from the *"Mustang Production Guide, Vol. 1"* by Jim Smart and Jim Haskell. Flipping through the pages we see one or two Mustangs noted as "GT" in

the far right column during February 1965. Looking onward, consistency can be seen starting around mid-March and later at all three plants. Unfortunately, most of the data inserted into the *Production Guide* is given by owners and unfortunately every car cannot be verified for 100-percent authenticity of the information submitted. Additionally, we do not have the Ford production information prior to 1967. (Marti Auto Works has licensed from Ford for the 1967 and later years.) So, basically, we cannot document how accurate this information is. From observations of the data in this book, though, it is quite clear that GT Mustangs were built with regularity at all three plants starting around the middle of March 1965.

Second, the most compelling evidence to support the first GT Mustang built later than the beginning of January was provided by Allen Cross, owner of FoMoCo Obsolete ([www.fomoco.com](http://www.fomoco.com)). Allen has in his possession a Ford Dealer Price Change list for new cars dated March 15, 1965. The price list has an accompanying cover-sheet noting that these are the new options and prices for 1965 cars, and that this list updates the previous price list of September 1964. On the price list, Mustang GT option is included and has a breakdown of the GT components, as we would expect. Keep in mind that the GT option and Interior Décor group were to be available to the public starting on the one-year anniversary of the Mustang introduction, April 17, 1965. What makes this compelling is the fact that dealers

would not have been able to order a Mustang GT until they had received this new price-option sheet on March 15 or later. We can make an educated guess that actual GT production most likely did not start until a week or two before Ford Motor Company sent out this price sheet and production starting in January would not have been necessary to be so early with an introduction date of April 17. Additionally, we need to account for some early GT show cars and/or demos that would have been made as much as a month earlier just to be safe. This could explain the light scattering of GT Mustangs noted in the *Production Guide* with February scheduled build dates.

In conclusion, even though we have been able to narrow the gap of the beginning of GT Mustang production from January 1, 1965, to mid-February 1965, we still do not know for certain the actual date. We might possibly never find out when it really was, but its things like this that keep these cars so interesting. If anyone has information to refute or confirm this, please let the Judging Team know. For the reasons of authenticity, we ask for items such as original order sheets, invoices, original window stickers or Ford documentation.

Charles Turner  
Assistant Head Judge, '64 - '66

*Charles Turner is one of the newest Assistant Head Judges, for '64 - '66 Mustangs. Charles lives near Raleigh, North Carolina, and has been a active in the Mustang hobby since the 1980s. Over the past 15-years, he has enjoyed driving and showing his 1965 fastback in concours trailered. During those years Charles has attended dozens of MCA shows as both a participant and judge. Those of you that peruse the Mustang forums online might know him through his handle, "caspiant65." Charles had this to say about the 2004 show season, "If you have any questions at all about the new Rulebook or anything else concerning '64 - '66 Mustangs, come find me at the next show. I'm looking forward to seeing some great cars and owners this year; see you on the show field."*

