



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-024
Prompted By: PE03-029
Date Opened: 11/19/2003 Date Closed: 07/12/2005
Principal Investigator: Richard Boyd
Subject: Extended Stopping Distances

Manufacturer: SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.
Products: SUBARU OF AMERICA - 2002, 2003 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX
Population: 50701

Problem Description: Reduced braking and/or extended stops when attempting to slow down on bumps, gravel, ripples or other irregularities in the pavement

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	129	200	329
Crashes/Fires:	16	13	29
Injury Incidents:	6	1	7
# Injuries:	6	1	7
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	403	403

*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

Action: This engineering analysis is closed. A safety related defect trend has not been identified.

Engineer: Richard Boyd

Date: 07/12/2005

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 07/12/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/12/2005

Summary: During the EA, ODI and VRTC performed the following activities:

1. Conducted a mail survey of 246 subject vehicle owners to determine the roadway surface that caused owners' concern;
2. Interviewed complaining owners;
3. Conducted field inspections of seven (7) complaint vehicles;
4. Instrumented testing at VRTC of complaint and "peer" vehicles;
5. Reviewed Subaru's response to our information request;
6. Met with Subaru for technical review of testing

As a result of the work conducted by VRTC and ODI during this investigation, a consistent or chronic pattern of poor brake performance has not been identified. VRTC conducted over 11,500 brake tests. They did not observe any long-duration, low deceleration events (some owners reported delays of 4 to 10 seconds) in the test vehicles. See ODI's closing report and VRTC's test report for full details.