



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-012
Date Opened: 04/10/2015
Investigator: John Abbott
Approver: Otto Matheke
Subject: Passenger Front Air Bag Suppression

Date Closed: 07/15/2015
Reviewer: Scott Yon

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Subaru of America, Inc.
Products: 2012 Subaru Impreza
Population: 32,400

Problem Description: The passenger frontal air bag can become suppressed (turned off) when the passenger seat is occupied.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	29	514	543
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	2,561	2,561

*Description of Other: Manufacturer Warranty Claims

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close the investigation, see NHTSA Safety Recall 15V-419.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation opened this investigation on April 10, 2015 based on 26 Vehicle Owner Questionnaire reports involving the passenger frontal air bag in MY 2012 Subaru Impreza vehicles. These vehicles use a capacitive type Occupant Detection System (ODS), which is intended to classify the occupant of the passenger seat as either full sized, small stature, a child seat, or other object. The reports alleged that the ODS failed to operate properly and incorrectly suppressed (turned off) the front passenger air bag when the seat was occupied. In a frontal crash sufficient to warrant deployment, a suppressed air bag may increase the risk of injury to the occupant of the seat.

On June 25, 2015, Subaru of America, Inc. submitted a Defect Information Report (DIR) advising NHTSA that it would conduct a safety recall to remedy the ODS in 32,400 MY 2012 Subaru Impreza vehicles equipped with a capacitance type ODS for the front passenger's seat. The DIR notes that the WRX/STI models are excluded from this recall as they are equipped with a different type (weight-recognition based) ODS for the front passenger's seat.

ODI is closing this investigation based on Subaru's recall action.

The ODI reports cited above can be viewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues> under the following ID numbers:

10668512, 10668243, 10662987, 10641835, 10640574, 10626384, 10622234, 10621456, 10619273, 10605789, 10604506, 10575908, 10559081, 10557856, 10556661, 10545059, 10538562, 10532118, 10481308, 10478660, 10473662, 10472608, 10470865, 10468157, 10463432, 10672345, 10712288, 10713178, 10731645.