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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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April 2, 2002
Ref. No.: GA02-026

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, NSA-10
Safety Assurance, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Subaru Recall WWH-91/NHTSA 02V-079

Dear Ms. DeMeter,

Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.5(c)(9), Subaru of America, Inc. submits a copy of the following dealer communication:

Stop Sale & Inspection Instructions WWH-91 3/7/02

An electronic copy was also posted on the Subaru dealer communications system (Subaru.net).

Sincerely ,
SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.

Gerald Plante
NHTSA Compliance Manager

Enclosure



MEMORANDUM

TO: Subaru Regional Offices and Distributors

FROM: Jim Sinclair and Don Bearden

SUBJECT: Stop Sale Notification

DATE: March 7, 2002

FHI & SIA has determined that approximately one thousand two hundred fifty 2002 model year Legacy vehicles recently manufactured may contain a safety related defect with the brake master cylinder. Due to the safety concerns associated with this potential defect and federal regulations, a stop sale order will be in effect immediately.

The subject vehicle defect was identified by SIA during routine quality assurance processes. There have been no field reports or consumer complaints regarding these potential defects. The majority of vehicles on the affected VIN list distributed to dealers will only require an inspection procedure to determine the presence of the defect. Specific date coded brake master cylinders will have to be replaced prior to sale of the vehicle. There is adequate supply of replacement parts in the system.

The brake master cylinder may not release hydraulic pressure under cold conditions (<28 degrees F). The driver will easily recognize the condition.

SOA will announce a "Stop Sale Order" to dealers later today with details on the affected VIN's. Interim inspection, repair procedures and claims submission procedures will be released to dealers shortly. The dealer notification will direct the dealer personnel to view details of the recall program at the Subaru.net site.

The affected VIN lists are being sent to all Distribution Managers at the Regions and Independent Distributors. Sales or distribution of affected vehicles, prior to inspection and repair, is a violation of "The Safety Act" which can result in civil and criminal fines and penalties.

SOA will be initiating a Recall Campaign for vehicles that have already been sold at retail in the near future. Due to quick reaction by SIA, the number of affected vehicles for the recall will be limited.

Subaru has just identified the potential for a problem with the Brake Master Cylinder on a small number of 2002 Legacy & Outback vehicles. The problem was identified during routine quality checks at SIA, however some units had been released before identifying the potential affected unit range.

The symptom of affected cylinders is that the brake hydraulic pressure may not release during temperatures of approximately 28 degrees F or below. The symptom is easily recognized by the driver.

All 2002 Legacy & Outback models listed on the attached Regional Affected VIN List are immediately placed on STOP SALE. Any units in dealer inventory or in transit are to be immediately identified and isolated.

IMPORTANT

In order to release the vehicle from the stop sale, the Brake Master Cylinder must be inspected for a date code and replaced when necessary as described below. The date code is found on the end of the Brake Master Cylinder.

- **The dealer must report the date code for all vehicles on the affected VIN list. The Regional Service Office must record these date codes.**
- **Only vehicles with a date code of 21Q or 21R must have the Brake Master Cylinder replaced.**
- **Only after the date code is reported and confirmation that the affected (date codes 21Q and 21R only) Brake Master Cylinder has been replaced can the vehicle be released from the stop sale.**
- **All Regional Service Offices are to provide a copy of an updated date code list to Ed Griendling, SOA Service Dept. every Friday until the region is notified the list is complete.**

The replacement part number to use is 26401AC220S1.

More specific details of repair procedures will be posted on Latest News in subarunet.com this afternoon.

Brake Master Cylinder

This procedure involves the inspection of affected models for possible replacement of the brake master cylinder.

Affected Models: 2002MY Legacy and Outback

Affected Vehicles: Refer to affected vehicle list provided by Regional/Distributor Office.

Inspection Instructions:

Locate and check the lot number on the end of the brake master cylinder. If the lot number is **21Q or 21R**, the brake master cylinder will require replacement. If the lot number is any other number, no further repair is necessary. In all cases, record the lot number on the Repair Order and report the information to your Regional/Distributor Office.



Replacement Instructions:

If lot number **21Q or 21R** is found, replace the brake master cylinder following the procedures in the applicable Subaru Service Manual.

Replacement Parts:

The replacement master cylinder part number is 26401AC220S1.

Reimbursement Instructions:

A repair order must be prepared and kept on file. It is required that the lot number found on the brake master cylinder be noted on the repair order along with what action was taken (inspection or inspection/replacement). Only after the lot number is reported to your Regional/Distributor Office and confirmation that the affected (lot numbers 21Q & 21R only) brake master cylinder has been replaced can the vehicle be released from the Stop Sale Order.

Claim Type	RC (Recall Campaign)	
Inspect Only	Operation Number	B153-101
	Failure Code	WWH91
	Labor Hours	0.2
Inspect and Replace	Operation Number	B153-211
	Failure Code	WWH91
	Labor Hours	1.0
	Part Number	26401AC220S1 – Master Cylinder SOA635004 – Brake Fluid