

SUBARU

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REC'D
NYS

Subaru of America, Inc.
Subaru Plaza
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856-488-8500
www.subaru.com

2004 MAR 16 P 4: 20
March 10, 2004
DEFECTS INFO. GAOA-014

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance - NSA-01
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

04V-128 ① of ④

Re: **Subaru Legacy Outback and Impreza Cruise Control Cable Retaining
Clip, Part 573, Defect Information Report**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, Subaru of America, Inc. ["Subaru"] hereby submits a Defect Information Report (DIR) concerning a safety recall of certain 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Subaru Legacy Outback H-6 vehicles and 2002, 2003 and 2004 Impreza WRX vehicles to address a possible cruise control cable problem.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (856) 488-8644.

Sincerely,

SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.



Don Bearden, Director
Governmental Affairs

cc: K. DeMeter

DB:ds
Attachment

Defect Information Report

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. [FHI]
1-7-2 Nishi-Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8316, Japan

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Assembly Facility in USA:

Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. ["SIA"]
6500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, Indiana 47905

Assembly Facility in Japan:

Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. [FHI]
Yajima Plant
1-1, Syoya-Cho,
Ota-Shi, Gunma-Ken 373-0822
Japan

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company:

Subaru of America, Inc. ["SOA"]
Subaru Plaza
P.O.Box 6000
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034-6000

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on supplier and vehicle production records, we have determined the affected vehicle population as follows:

Make/Model: Subaru Legacy and Outback H-6 3.0L and Impreza WRX 2.0L Turbo

Model years: Certain 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Model Year Subaru Vehicles.

Production dates: Legacy and Outback vehicles produced at SIA between March 15, 2000 and February 19, 2004, and Impreza WRX vehicles produced at FHI between September 5, 2000 and February 12, 2004.

VIN Range:

2001MY Legacy Outback Wagon	4S3BH8***17600006	- 679752
2002MY Legacy Outback Sedan	4S3BE8***27200002	- 216832
2002MY Legacy Outback Wagon	4S3BH8***27600001	- 667102
2003MY Legacy Outback Sedan	4S3BE8***37200010	- 218144
2003MY Legacy Outback Wagon	4S3BH8***37600002	- 661186
2004MY Legacy Outback Sedan	4S3BE8***47200007	- 211691
2004MY Legacy Outback Wagon	4S3BH8***47600020	- 646112
2002MY Impreza Sedan WRX	JF1GD2***2*500015	- 531625
2002MY Impreza Sport Wagon WRX	JF1GG2***2*800023	- 837226
2003MY Impreza Sedan WRX	JF1GD2***3*500001	- 513811

(VIN Range Continued):

2003MY Impreza Sport Wagon WRX	JF1GG2***3*800006 - 814059
2004MY Impreza Sedan WRX	JF1GD2***4*500001 - 525188
2004MY Impreza Sport Wagon WRX	JF1GG2***4*800001 - 821871

Note 1. Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S. nor are all vehicles within this VIN range affected.

Note 2. Various characters may occupy the VIN positions identified by ""*

Component supplier:
 Hitachi, Ltd., Automotive Systems
 2520 Oaza-Takaba, Hitachinaka-Shi,
 Ibaraki-Ken, 312-8503 Japan
 Phone: (029) 276-6784

3.Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Based on supplier, FHI and SIA records, 127,580 Legacy Outback H-6 3.0L and Impreza WRX 2.0L Turbo vehicles are potentially affected.

The exact number will be determined after receipt of the R.L. Polk owner registration database, and will be included in our first quarterly completion report.

4.Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

Although we believe the percentage of vehicles likely to actually experience the failure is very low, a cruise control cable retaining clip will be installed on all potentially affected vehicles.

5.Description of Problem:

The cruise control cable could come out of its track on the cruise control lever and lodge on the control lever tab when the accelerator pedal is released. If this condition occurs, the throttle will not return to the idle position but remains in an open position. If this occurs during vehicle operation, the driver could lose control of the vehicle.

We have had no reports of accident or injury as a result of this issue.

We have had only two field reports of this problem occurring worldwide out of approximately 170,000 potentially affected vehicles.

6.Chronology of Principal Events:

In mid February, 2004, SOA received a technical report of a new vehicle with throttle not returning to the idle position after acceleration. This occurred during a demonstrator test drive at a dealer in the U.S.A. SOA collected the throttle body of the subject vehicle and returned it to FHI for technical analysis. FHI received the requested component from SOA and started an investigation with the supplier. In early March, 2004, the reported condition was duplicated at the supplier. FHI and the supplier found that the cruise control cable came out of the track on the cruise control lever and lodged on the lever tab causing the throttle to remain partially open. Further investigation determined the affected production range of the possible problem.

On March 8, 2004, FHI decided to conduct a safety recall in all markets with affected vehicles to correct this potential condition.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

A cruise control cable retaining clip will be fitted to the cruise control lever tab on the throttle shaft in order to prevent the cruise control cable from coming out of its track.

8. Recall schedule:

SOA will immediately issue a stop sale of all potentially affected vehicles in dealer inventory. As soon as parts are available, we will notify all owners of potentially affected vehicles of this potential problem with their vehicles by first class mail and ask them to contact their dealer to arrange a service appointment to have the cruise control cable retaining clip installed at no charge to the owner. We will also advise owners in the notification letter of the action to take if they encounter this condition.