

SUBARU

FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES U.S.A., INC.

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RECEIVED
DEFLECT INVESTIGATION
September 27, 2004
Ref. No. GR04-054

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-473
(4 pages)

Re: 2004MY Subaru Impreza, Forester and Baja Oil-Flow Control Valve
Gasket Oil Leak; 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, Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc. ["Subaru"] hereby submits a Defect Information Report (DIR) concerning a safety recall of certain 2004MY early production Subaru vehicles to address a possible oil leak.

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

Sincerely,

Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., INC.


Don Bearden, Director
Governmental Relations

cc: K. DeMeter

DB:ds
Attachment

09/27/04

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

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

Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. ["SIA"]
5500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, Indiana 47903

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company:

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

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

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

Make/Model:	Subaru Impreza STI	15 units
	Subaru Forester XT	4 units
	Subaru Baja Turbo	7 units
	Total units	26 units

Model year: 2004 MY

Production dates: February 4, 2003 through March 5, 2003

VIN Range: The following VINs are affected:

<u>Impreza STI</u>	<u>Forester</u>	<u>Baja</u>
JF1GD70674L500989	JF1SG69624G700006	4S4BT63C546100019
JF1GD70694L500992	JF1SG69694G700021	4S4BT63C546100022
JF1GD70614L500999	JF1SG69664G700025	4S4BT63C746100023
JF1GD70624L501000	JF1SG69614G700030	4S4BT63C446100027
JF1GD70604L501125		4S4BT63C446100030
JF1GD70624L501126		4S4BT63C646100031
JF1GD70684L501129		4S4BT63C846100032
JF1GD70644L501131		
JF1GD70684L501132		
JF1GD70614L501134		
JF1GD70634L501135		
JF1GD70654L501136		
JF1GD70674L501137		
JF1GD70694L501138		
JF1GD70674L501140		

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

26 early production 2004MY turbocharged vehicles are potentially affected.

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain Defect:

All 26 early production vehicles will be checked and corrected as necessary.

5. Description of Problem:

The oil-flow control valve cover bolts may not be sufficiently tightened, allowing oil to leak from around the cover gasket. If leaking oil contacts components operating at high temperatures, an engine compartment fire could result. There have been no reports of such incidents in the U.S. market.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

On September 15, 2004, FHI issued a recall in Japan and other countries (not including U.S. vehicles) for a possible oil leak from the oil-flow control valve cover due to insufficient cover bolt tightening. Fuji Heavy Industries

U.S.A., Inc. submitted a Foreign Recall Report to NHTSA (Ref. No. 04F-101) on this issue on September 20, 2004. No U.S. vehicles were included since the standard specification for U.S. vehicles did not include the oil-flow control valve. However, on September 22, 2004, it was determined from production records that some very early production 2004MY vehicles shipped to the U. S. for auto shows and press events included the oil-flow control valves on which covers could have had loose bolts.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

Subaru will notify all owners of the affected vehicles by first class mail to return their vehicles to a Subaru dealer for retightening of the oil-flow control valve cover bolts.

Subaru will not include owner information concerning reimbursement for previous repairs in the owner notification letter since all of the potentially affected vehicles would still be under the terms of the Subaru Basic Warranty.

8. Recall Schedule:

Owner notification is expected to begin within 15 days, as soon as the required special tools and dealer repair procedures are completed and distributed.

Copies of the dealer repair procedures will be submitted as soon as they are available.