



To: All Subaru Dealers
Attn: Service Manager
From: Subaru of America, Inc.
Date: May 30, 2008

Subject: WVD-14 Impreza Wagon Rear Gate Stay Stud Bolt Recall - Update

Subaru of America, Inc. has initiated a voluntary Safety Recall to inspect and possibly perform repairs to the rear gate stay stud bolts and welded nuts on approximately 36,791 2002 and 2003MY Impreza wagons. Campaign code WVD-14 has been assigned to this Safety Recall.

Affected vehicles may have been manufactured with tailgate stays (also known as tailgate struts) that were inadequately tightened during production. The left and right tailgate stays are designed to support the tailgate when it is placed in an upright position. Each is connected to the tailgate by means of a stud bolt that is attached directly to a welded nut located within the tailgate. If one or both of the stud bolts were inadequately tightened, the loose stud bolt may put unintended stress at the area around the welded nut. Over time and after repeated tailgate operation (opening and closing), this condition could result in the welded nut, along with the tailgate stay, separating and detaching from the tailgate causing the tailgate to close unexpectedly.

There is a safety risk associated with this condition. If an affected stud bolt attaching nut were to detach from the tailgate, the tailgate stay would separate from its mounting position and cause the tailgate to drop unexpectedly. For persons underneath or near the tailgate, there is a possibility that the quickly closing tailgate may hit them and potentially cause personal injury.

This recall will involve the inspection of rear gate stay stud bolts for proper tightening torque. Based on the product investigation, the number of affected vehicles produced with insufficiently tightened rear gate stay stud bolts is expected to be very low. In some instances, replacement of one or both welded nuts along with both rear gate stays and stud bolts may be necessary. Please refer to the Service Procedure section of the Recall / Campaign bulletin for more details. The Bulletin is posted on the Techinfo.Subaru.com website.

Updated information concerning this Safety Recall:

- SOA will begin mailing WVD-14 owner notification letters on June 2, 2008.
- Dealer affected VIN lists, along with a supply of campaign completion labels, will be mailed to dealers beginning May 30, 2008.
- Campaign Bulletin WVD-14 has been posted on the Techinfo.Subaru.com website. The Bulletin contains additional information concerning identification of affected vehicles, repair and claim submission procedures.
- Repair parts - The number of affected vehicles requiring a repair kit is estimated to be very low. Therefore, dealer should not stock order repair parts. It will only be necessary to order the repair kit for vehicles that have been inspected and confirmed to require replacement of one or both rear gate stay welded nuts. Please refer to the Parts Information section of the WVD-14 Campaign Bulletin for additional information.