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By Recall Mgt Div. at 10:58 am, May 11, 2010

10V-196

(4 pages)



**SUBARU**

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May 4, 2010  
Ref. No.: GR10-011

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement, NVS-200  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Room W 45-306  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Part 573 Defect Information Report – Crack of CVT Fluid Cooler Hose on 2010 Subaru Legacy & Outback**

Dear Mr. Smith,

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports, Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc. on behalf of Subaru of America, Inc. and Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., submits the enclosed notification and report concerning a defect in the CVT Fluid Cooler Hose on certain 2010 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign will be: WVQ-27. This is an initial submission. A subsequent submission will be made.

If you have any questions on the enclosed report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maurice Arcangeli'.

Maurice Arcangeli, Director  
Government Relations

Enclosure

cc: Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. (Japan)  
Subaru of America, Inc. (Cherry Hill, NJ)

## Defect Information Report (49 CFR Part 573.6)

### **573.6(c)(1) - Manufacturer's Name**

Vehicle Fabricating Manufacturers:

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

Designated U.S. Agency:

Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.  
2235 Rt. 70 West  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

### **573.6(c)(2)(i) - Identification of Vehicles Containing the Defect**

Based on vehicle production records, we have determined from production dates that the recall affected passenger car population is as follows:

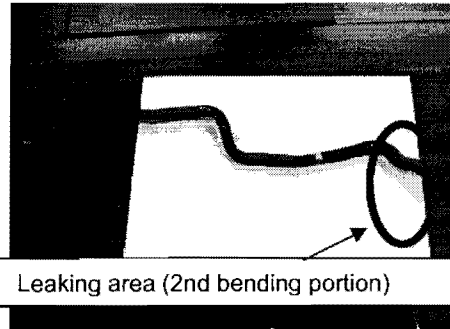
Make:	Subaru
Model Year(s):	2010
Model(s):	Legacy & Outback Vehicles
Production Dates:	TBD through TBD
VIN Ranges:	2010 Legacy: TBD
(Last 8 Digits)	2010 Outback: TBD

### **573.6(c)(3) - Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect**

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
Legacy	2010	TBD
Outback	2010	TBD
	TOTAL	TBD

### **573.6(c)(4) - Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect**

It is not possible to determine an estimated percentage. We have received only two technical reports of the problem from other markets.



### 573.6(c)(5) - Description of the Defect

(1) A technical report that FHI received from other markets indicated fluid leak from CVT fluid cooler hose and MIL illumination.

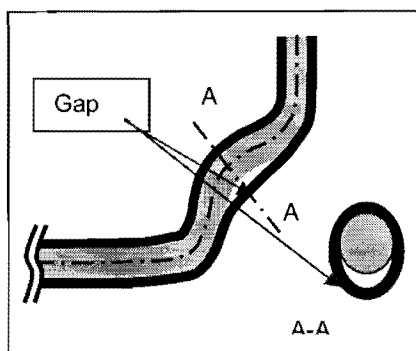
(2) Production change produced the problem:

- a) Length of rubber hose was set up 16mm longer for a specific time, i.e. between 7th of August, '09 and 10th of September, '09.
- b) An additional new associate worked the hose insertion to mandrel (shaft to process hose) with 3 experienced workers between 23rd of June, '09 and 31st of August, '09.

(3) Cause of the Defect

A gap between the hose and mandrel became larger than usual when the longer hose was inserted to mandrel with excessive force.

- a) Under these circumstances, if the split area was gripped tightly during hose insertion, the outer surface of the hose collapsed and folding ripples are generated on the internal hose.
- b) A split developed from the starting point of internal folding ripples generated by collapse of the hose to outer surface of the hose during internal pressure, which resulted in a fluid leak.



**573.6(c)(6) - Chronology of Principal Events**

March 18, 2010: FHI received the field technical reports from the Subaru Distributor in Japan and one other country concerning fluid leak from CVT fluid cooler hose and MIL illumination.

April 27, 2010: FHI concluded its investigation and determined that this condition relates to motor vehicle safety; accordingly, FHI will conduct a recall campaign.

**573.6(c)(8) - Description of the Manufacturer's Remedy Program**

(i)

The remedy plan calls for dealers to check lot number of the fluid cooler hose. The hose will be replaced with a new one if the lot number shown is in the effected range.

(ii)

Subaru of America, Inc. expects to notify U.S. dealers around TBD 2010 and include complete inspection and repair instructions. Owner notices are expected to be mailed on TBD 2010.

**573.6(c)(10) - Submission of Recall Communications**

Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc. will provide copies of all notices, bulletins and other recall related communications within 5 days after their distribution.

**573.6(c)(11) - Manufacturer's Campaign Number**

Our identification code for this recall campaign will be: WVQ-27.

**577.5(a) - Submission of Owner Notification Letter**

A copy of the owner notification letter will be submitted to NHTSA's Recall Management Division at least 5 days prior to mailing.