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By Recall Management Division at 1:44 pm, Feb 09, 2012



**SUBARU**

**Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc.**

c/o Subaru of America

Subaru Plaza

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000

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12V-047  
(4 Pages)

February 9, 2012  
Ref. No.: GR12-009

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement,  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Part 573 Defect Information Report –Side Curtain Air Bag Inflator on certain 2012 Subaru Legacy and Outback Vehicles**

Dear Ms. Lewis,

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 side curtain air bag inflator on certain 2012 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign will be: WVZ-36.

If you have any questions on the enclosed report, please contact me at (410) 884-4075 or [jfro@subaru.com](mailto:jfro@subaru.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Frooshani".

John Frooshani  
Safety Activities Manager  
Government Relations  
Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.

## 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 Potentially 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: 2012  
Model(s): Legacy and Outback Vehicles  
Production Dates: December 1, 2011 through December 23, 2011

VIN Ranges: 2012 Legacy: 4S3BM\*\*\*\*C\*017890 through 4S3BM\*\*\*\*C\*019308  
2012 Outback: 4S4BR\*\*\*\*C\*233501 through 4S4BR\*\*\*\*C\*244075

Note 1: Not all vehicles in the affected VIN ranges are affected or were sold in the US.

Note 2: Various characters occupy the VIN positions identified by \*.

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

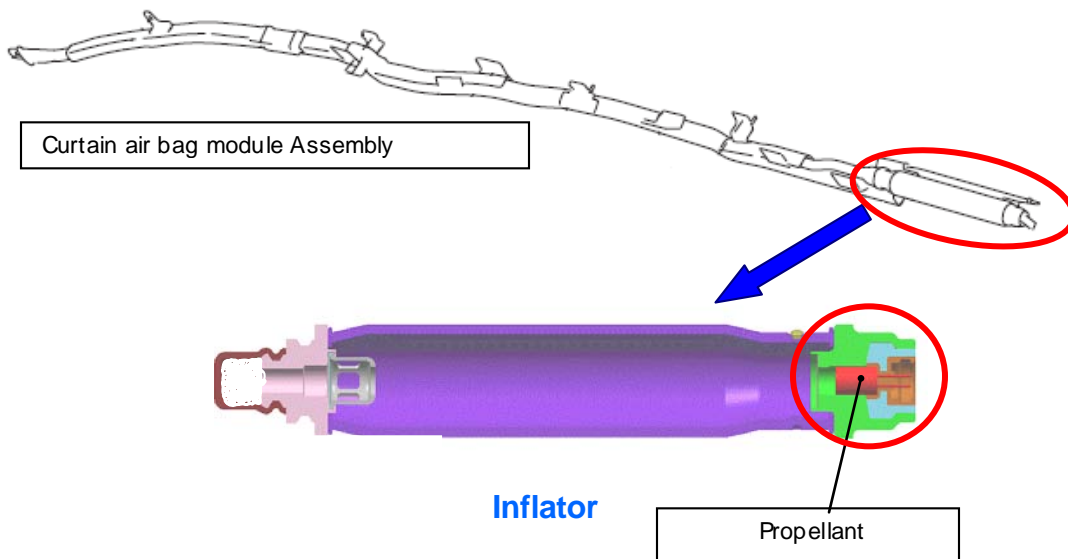
Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Involved
Legacy	2012	145
Outback	2012	236
	Total	381

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

It is not possible to determine an estimated percentage of the affected vehicles that may actually experience this condition. We have not received a technical report of the problem from any market, including the United States.

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

For those side curtain air bags with the defect, an incorrect propellant mixture for the initiator component was used, resulting in insufficient output of compressed gas. In this condition, the side curtain air bags will attempt to deploy; however they may not inflate, and therefore, fail to provide the intended protection.



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

- February 1, 2012: FHI received an initial report through SIA from the component supplier (Takata U.S.A.), that the side curtain air bag had not deployed during their sampling inspection.
- February 2, 2012: The defect condition and cause of the problem was confirmed by General Manager Meeting at FHI.
- February 3, 2012: 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 replace one or both side curtain air bag module(s) with a new one.

(ii) Subaru of America, Inc. expects to notify U.S. dealers around within 30 days of this report. It is expected that owner notification will begin within 60 days of this report. Subaru will update NHTSA if the situation changes significantly.

**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: WVZ-36.

**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.