

**Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc.**c/o Subaru of America  
Subaru Plaza  
PO Box 6000  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000  
856-488-8500  
856-488-8669 faxAugust 1, 2013  
Ref. No.: GR13-053Ms. 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 –5-Speed Automatic Transmission (AT) Parking Rod on 2014MY Subaru Legacy, 2014MY Subaru Outback and 2013MY Subaru Tribeca 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. (SOA) and Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. (FHI), submits the enclosed notification and report concerning a defect of the 5-speed automatic transmission parking rod on certain 2014 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback and 2013 model year Subaru Tribeca vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign is: WQJ-46.

If you have any questions on the enclosed report, please contact me at (443) 430-3619 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. ["FUSA"]  
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):** 2013 and 2014

**Model(s):** 2014MY Legacy and Outback and 2013MY Tribeca vehicles

**Production Dates:** Certain vehicles manufactured from June 12, 2013 through June 28, 2013.

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

A total of 202 vehicles potentially contain the defect. That figure consists of 28 Legacy, 171 Outback and 3 Tribeca vehicles.

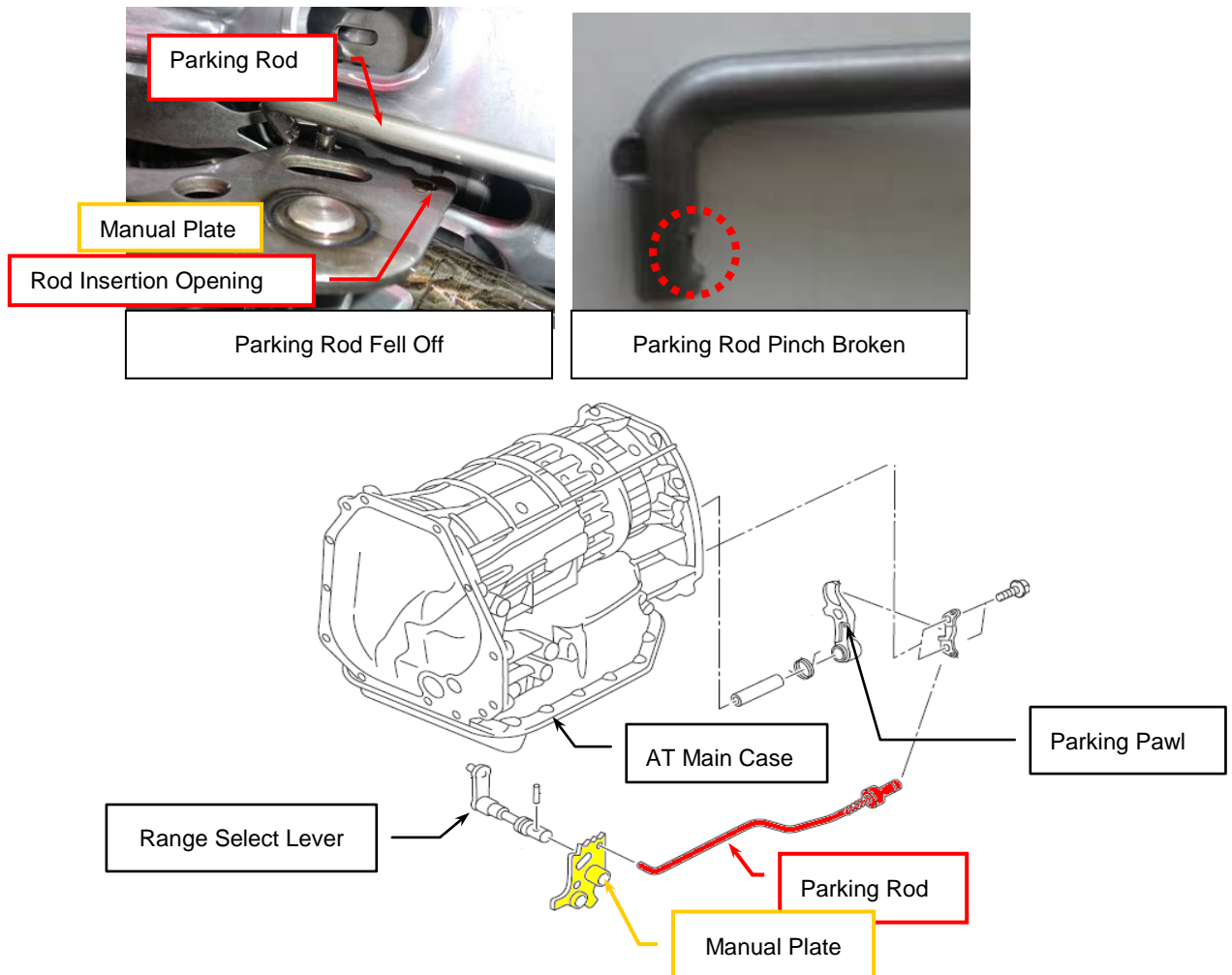
**573.6(c)(4) - Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect**

Although the percentage of affected vehicles likely to actually experience the failure is unknown, replacement of each car's 5-speed automatic transmission will be performed on all of the potentially affected vehicles.

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

The parking rod of the 5-speed automatic transmission was not assembled correctly. The parking rod pinch was broken upon installation, which may cause disengagement of the parking rod from the manual plate (please refer to the illustrations below). Potential issues caused by this condition are described below:

- 1) Even with the transmission shifted into the “park” position, the parking pawl will not be engaged in the parking gear and therefore, the parking mechanism may not operate properly to prevent vehicle movement. If the parking brake is not used when parking the vehicle, it may move unexpectedly.
- 2) If the parking rod detaches during engagement into the “park” position, disengagement of the parking gears, when moving the gear selector from the “park” position, may not be possible, which would prevent the vehicle from being moved or driven.



#### **573.6(c)(6) – Chronology of Principal Events**

- June 20, 2013: FHI received the following information from SIA (Indiana): During accessory installation at Subaru Yard Operations, a vehicle moved unexpectedly, even though the transmission shift lever was in the “P” (i.e., Park) position.
- June 26, 2013: FHI (Japan) received the automatic transmission from the affected vehicle at SIA and started an investigation. That investigation was completed in approximately one month and reached the following conclusions:
  - The Parking rod was broken at the pinch point and the rod was disengaged from the manual plate.
  - Since the pinch point showed material shear failure and an impression was seen at the rod insertion opening of the manual plate, the rod pinch point was determined to have been damaged during the automatic transmission assembly process.
  - Production records revealed that a specific employee had been improperly assembling automatic transmissions during the time period defective units were confirmed to have been manufactured.
- July 26, 2013: FHI completed its investigation and concluded that Subaru should conduct a safety recall in the U.S. market.

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

- (i) The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace the original 5-speed automatic transmission (AT) assembly with a new one.
- (ii) Subaru of America, Inc. expects to notify U.S. dealers on or around August 2, 2013. It is expected that owner notification will begin within 30 days. The owner letter will not contain a reimbursement statement since all of the vehicles are/were covered under warranty for the necessary repair and vehicle owners would not have incurred any out of pocket expenses. 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 is: WQJ-46

#### **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.