

**Part 573 Safety Recall Report****14V-577****Manufacturer Name :** Subaru of America, Inc.**Submission Date :** SEP 18,2014**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14V-577**Manufacturer Recall No. :** WQN-50**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Subaru of America, Inc.

Address : P.O. Box 6000

Cherry Hill NJ 08034-6000

Company phone : 856-488-8500

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 56

Estimated percentage with defect : 0

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle : 2015-2015 Subaru Outback

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

**Descriptive Information :**

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 accessory trailer hitch assembly on certain 2015 model year Subaru Outback vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign is: WQN-50.

Production Dates : JAN 22, 2014 - AUG 18, 2014

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential VINs

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Mounting nuts included in the accessory trailer hitch assembly are used to affix the trailer hitch to eight (8) separate bolts (studs) welded to the body of the affected vehicles. Subaru has determined there may be a mounting issue when installing the affected accessory trailer hitch assemblies. As a result, the installer could underestimate the amount of torque being applied. Excessive tightening of the nut may, in turn, damage the bolts (studs) on the vehicle. If this were to happen, the mounting nut(s) may not provide sufficient force to remain attached to the bolt(s) or the bolt(s) themselves might break.

Description of the Safety Risk : Should one or both of these phenomena occur while a trailer is being towed, the driver might not be able to operate the vehicle as desired or the trailer may detach from the vehicle. Either situation could possibly result in a crash.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : Flex-N-Gate

Address : 1306 E. University Ave  
Urbana IL 61803

Country : US

**Chronology :**

July 7 2014: During a training event for the 2015MY Subaru Outback at one of Subaru's U.S. ports, an individual installing the trailer hitch on a vehicle could not achieve the target tightening torque for some of the mounting nuts. This incident was subsequently reported by Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) to FHI.

July 11 2014: SOA issued a stop sale of the accessory trailer hitch kit to dealers due to a potential quality concern.

July to September 2014: FHI and the accessory trailer hitch assembly supplier (Flex-N-Gate) worked together to investigate this potential mounting issue.

Sep. 11 2014: FHI concluded that this potential mounting issue is safety related; therefore, Subaru will perform a safety recall in the U.S. market.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace all eight (8) mounting nuts for the accessory trailer hitch assembly. Also, dealers will inspect all eight (8) bolts (studs) for damage and determine whether replacement is required.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Subaru of America, Inc. expects to notify U.S. dealers on or around September 18, 2014. It is expected that owner notification will begin on or about October 15, 2014. Subaru will update NHTSA if the situation changes significantly.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 18, 2014 - SEP 18, 2014

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 15, 2014 - OCT 15, 2014

\* NR - Not Reported