

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 17V-625

**Manufacturer Name :** Subaru of America, Inc.

**Submission Date :** NOV 13, 2017

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-625

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** WTQ-76



## 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 :** 9,178

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2015-2015 Subaru WRX

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** 4-DOOR

**Power Train :** GAS

**Descriptive Information :** -Description of the issue: An electrical short may cause the subwoofer to overheat

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: The recall population was based on production records of 2015MY WRX models equipped with the optional defective subwoofer.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: No other Subaru vehicles are equipped with the same model subwoofer assembly as the subject vehicles.

**Production Dates :** JAN 17, 2014 - APR 09, 2015

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** The subject vehicles are equipped with a factory installed subwoofer, which is located inside the trunk. Luggage in the trunk could contact subwoofer wire and move the wire out of its fixed position. If the wire touches the metal frame of the subwoofer, this may result in an intermittent short, causing the integrated circuit (IC) in the subwoofer amplifier to be damaged. In some case, the damaged IC may create a continuous electrical current into the subwoofer. If this occurs, the subwoofer could overheat, increasing the risk of a fire.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** The damaged IC may create a continuous electrical current into the subwoofer. If this occurs, the subwoofer could overheat, increasing the risk

Description of the Cause : of a fire. The location of the subwoofer wire makes it susceptible to potential contact with subwoofer frame when cargo in the trunk hits it. Also, the subwoofer amplifier has insufficient protection from intermittent short.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Crackling noise occurs when intermittent short occurs. Turning off the audio system prevent this defect from occurring.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : Harman International Industries, Inc.  
Address : 400 Atlantic Street  
Stamford CONNECTICUT 06901  
Country : United States

## Chronology :

January 2017: Subaru CORPORATION (Subaru) received a first field report regarding overheating of a subwoofer on 2015MY WRX.

March 2017: The subwoofer and amplifier were collected from the reported vehicle and investigated in Subaru.

April 2017: The collected subwoofer and amplifier were sent to the Supplier for investigation.

April 28, 2017: Subaru received a Supplier investigation report. The result showed that the IC in the audio amplifier had been damaged due to electrical overstress. Also, it appeared that an electrical short occurred between the subwoofer wire and the metal frame of the subwoofer. The cause of the short was not identified (product issue or external factor), therefore Subaru decided to continue further investigation with the Supplier.

May 2017: Subaru received a second field report from Australia and collected parts for further investigation.

September 2017: As a result of the investigations, Subaru identified that there was susceptibility of the subwoofer wire to potentially contact the subwoofer frame when cargo in the trunk hits it.

September 29, 2017: Subaru decided to perform a safety recall of all potentially affected vehicles.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : • If the wire is in its fixed position: Inspect the condition of the subwoofer wire, and if there is no abnormality with the subwoofer wire, install a spacer clip kit, which prevents the subwoofer wire from contacting the subwoofer frame.

• If the wire is not in its fixed position: If the subwoofer wire is dislocated from its fixed position, replace the subwoofer with a new one, which includes the spacer clip kit. Also, confirm if the subwoofer amplifier is damaged – if it is, replace the subwoofer amplifier assembly with a new one.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The recalled component is "SPEAKER ASSY BWS" (part number: 86301VA250). The remedy components are either the addition of a spacer clip kit (part number 86319VA000) or replacement of the subwoofer (part number 86301VA251), which includes the spacer clip kit.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : From 2016MY, an updated subwoofer amplifier was implemented in production for other reasons, which happened to have a protection circuit to protect Integrated Circuit (IC) from damage by intermittent short.

## Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified 10/10/17  
Notification Letters will be mailed to all owners 10/31/17

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 10, 2017 - OCT 10, 2017

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 31, 2017 - OCT 31, 2017

\* NR - Not Reported