

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 19V-149

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

**Submission Date :** FEB 28, 2019

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19V-149

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** WUE-90



## Manufacturer Information :

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

**Address :** One Subaru Drive

Camden NJ 08103

**Company phone :** 856-488-8500

## Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 1,303,530

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2014-2016 Subaru Forester

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** SUV

**Power Train :** GAS

**Descriptive Information :** -Description of the issue: Silicone gas may seep into the brake lamp switch housing. If silicone gas is present in the switch housing during contact closure, silicon dioxide may form a deposit layer on the switch contact terminal. If this layer accumulates, the contact switch may lose conductivity, which may result in a loss of function. Depending on the model, the brake lamp switch functions may include: brake lamp illumination, transmission interlock (shifting from park), ignition interlock (push-button ignition start), anti-lock brake system (ABS) functionality, vehicle dynamics control (VDC) functionality, and/or Eyesight operation. If the vehicle experiences a loss in function, as described, any associated warning light(s) will illuminate.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles equipped with a direct-facing contact brake lamp switch may be affected.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with a different type of brake lamp switch, such as oblique-facing contact, slide contact, or contactless, which prevent, or are not affected by, the accumulation of silicon dioxide.

The recall population includes certain 2014-2016 model year Forester vehicles. The number of affected Forester vehicles is 526,941.

**Production Dates :** DEC 18, 2012 - APR 28, 2016

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

**Vehicle 2 :** 2008-2016 Subaru Impreza

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** 4-DOOR

**Power Train :** GAS

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The recall population includes certain 2008-2016 model year Impreza 4-door vehicles. The number of affected Impreza 4-door vehicles is 162,744.

Production Dates : APR 26, 2007 - OCT 28, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2008-2014 Subaru WRX

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

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-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with a different type of brake lamp switch, such as oblique-facing contact, slide contact, or contactless, which prevent, or are not affected by, the accumulation of silicon dioxide.

The recall population includes certain 2008-2014 model year WRX 4-door vehicles. The number of affected WRX 4-door vehicles is 39,726.

Production Dates : APR 26, 2007 - JAN 15, 2014

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2012-2016 Subaru Impreza

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : STATIONWAGON

Power Train : GAS

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The recall population includes certain 2012-2016 model year Impreza stationwagon vehicles. The number of affected Impreza stationwagon vehicles is 210,553.

Production Dates : APR 28, 2011 - OCT 03, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2013-2017 Subaru Crosstrek

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

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-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles equipped with a direct-facing contact brake lamp switch may be affected.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with a different type of brake lamp switch, such as oblique-facing contact, slide contact, or contactless, which prevent, or are not affected by, the accumulation of silicon dioxide.

The recall population includes certain 2013-2017 model year Crosstrek vehicles. The number of affected Crosstrek vehicles is 363,566.

Production Dates : MAY 17, 2012 - JUN 13, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Silicone gas may seep into the brake lamp switch housing. If silicone gas is present in the switch housing during contact closure, silicon dioxide may form a deposit layer on the switch contact terminal. If this layer accumulates, the contact switch may lose conductivity, which may result in a loss of function. Depending on the model, the brake lamp switch functions may include: brake lamp illumination, transmission interlock (shifting from park), ignition interlock (push-button ignition start), anti-lock brake system (ABS) functionality, vehicle dynamics control (VDC) functionality, and/or Eyesight operation. If the vehicle experiences a loss in function, as described, any associated warning light(s) will illuminate.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** If the brake lamps do not illuminate properly, a trailing vehicle may be unable to recognize the braking operation, which may increase the risk of a rear-end collision.

**Description of the Cause :** Silicone gas, potentially introduced to the vehicle through various consumer goods, may seep into the brake lamp switch housing. As the switch is closed, a small electrical discharge may allow the silicone gas to form silicon dioxide, which over time, can accumulate in a layer on the contact. The accumulation of silicon dioxide can lead to a loss in conductivity and switch functionality. If a push-button start system is equipped on the vehicle, the engine may not be able to be started because the brake lamp switch functions as an interlock. If the vehicle is equipped with a CVT or automatic transmission, the shift lever may not be able to be moved from the park or "P" range. A loss in brake lamp switch function may result in nonperformance of the brake lamps. If the vehicle is equipped with ABS, VDC and/or Eyesight, the ABS, VDC and/or Eyesight may deactivate. If the ABS, VDC, and/or Eyesight deactivate, the respective warning light(s) will illuminate, warning the driver of the condition.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** If ABS, VDC and/or Eyesight are(is) equipped, the ABS, VDC and/or Eyesight warning lamp(s) will illuminate. No warning lamp will illuminate for vehicles not equipped with ABS, VDC, and Eyesight.

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

Name : Valeo Japan Co., Ltd  
Address : 2994, Suka, Itako-shi  
Ibaraki FOREIGN STATES 311-2448  
Country : Japan

**Chronology :**

Chronology of defect provided via separate attachment (i.e. Subaru Chronology of Defect (WUE-90).pdf)

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : For all potentially affected vehicles, Subaru retailers (dealers) will replace the brake lamp switch with a remedied one for free.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component is an oblique-facing contact switch.  
Recalled Component Name: SWITCH STOP LP  
Recalled Component Description: Stop Lamp Switch  
Recalled Component Part numbers: 83311FG010, 83311FG011, 83311FG012, 83311FJ000, 83311FJ001

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : - Forester vehicles began using a slide contact switch for the start of production in the 2017 model year.  
- Impreza sedan/wagon vehicles began using a contactless switch for the start of production in the 2017 model year.  
- Crosstrek vehicles began using a contactless switch for the start of production in the 2018 model year.  
- WRX sedan vehicles began using a slide contact switch for the start of production in the 2015 model year.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner notification will occur within 60 days. Dealer notification is scheduled to begin on or about March 01, 2019.  
Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 01, 2019 - MAR 01, 2019  
Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 29, 2019 - APR 29, 2019

\* NR - Not Reported