

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-297

Manufacturer Name : Subaru of America, Inc.

Submission Date : APR 11, 2019

NHTSA Recall No. : 19V-297

Manufacturer Recall No. : WUF-91



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 : 511

Estimated percentage with defect : 3 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2009-2013 Subaru Forester

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: On some of the potentially affected vehicles, a mechanical key ignition switch installed as a replacement part may contain a ball spring which could be susceptible to long-term wear and possible fatigue breakage.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles identified as potentially equipped with a replacement mechanical key ignition switch manufactured by the supplier during a specific time period and containing certain LOT numbers.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2009-2013 model year Forester vehicles. The number of affected Forester vehicles is 266.

Production Dates : JAN 16, 2008 - NOV 05, 2012

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2008-2014 Subaru WRX

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : STATIONWAGON

Power Train : GAS

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could be susceptible to long-term wear and possible fatigue breakage.

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The recall population includes certain 2008-2014 model year WRX STATION WAGON vehicles. The number of affected WRX STATION WAGON vehicles is 15.

Production Dates : SEP 08, 2007 - JAN 14, 2014

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2005-2006 Subaru Legacy

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : STATIONWAGON

Power Train : GAS

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-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles identified as potentially equipped with a replacement mechanical key ignition switch manufactured by the supplier during a specific time period and containing certain LOT numbers.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2005-2006 model year Legacy STATION WAGON vehicles. The number of affected Legacy STATION WAGON vehicles is 4.

Production Dates : APR 09, 2004 - JUN 01, 2005

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2005-2014 Subaru Outback

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

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-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2005-2014 model year Outback vehicles. The number of affected Outback vehicles is 108.

Production Dates : MAR 11, 2004 - APR 30, 2014

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2009-2011 Subaru Impreza

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

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-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles identified as potentially equipped with a replacement mechanical key ignition switch manufactured by the supplier during a specific time period and containing certain LOT numbers.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2009-2011 model year Impreza 4-DOOR vehicles. The number of affected Impreza 4-DOOR vehicles is 21.

Production Dates : JUL 30, 2008 - MAY 11, 2011

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 6 : 2008-2011 Subaru Impreza

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : STATIONWAGON

Power Train : GAS

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-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles identified as potentially equipped with a replacement mechanical key ignition switch manufactured by the supplier during a specific time period and containing certain LOT numbers.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2008-2011 model year Impreza STATION WAGON vehicles. The number of affected Impreza STATION WAGON vehicles is 37.

Production Dates : JUL 03, 2007 - MAR 08, 2011

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 7 : 2009-2014 Subaru WRX

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

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-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles identified as potentially equipped with a replacement mechanical key ignition switch manufactured by the supplier during a specific time period and containing certain LOT numbers.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2009-2014 model year WRX 4-DOOR vehicles. The number of affected WRX 4-DOOR vehicles is 7.

Production Dates : OCT 15, 2008 - SEP 26, 2013

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 8 : 2005-2014 Subaru Legacy

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 equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2005-2014 model year Legacy 4-DOOR vehicles. The number of affected Legacy 4-DOOR vehicles is 43.

Production Dates : MAY 11, 2004 - MAY 13, 2014

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 9 : 2006-2008 Subaru Tribeca

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

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-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a mechanical key ignition switch manufactured outside the subject period are unaffected, based on supplier production records. Vehicles equipped with a push-button start system are also not affected, because the vehicles are not equipped with the affected part.

The recall population includes certain 2006-2008 model year Tribeca vehicles. The number of affected Tribeca vehicles is 10.

Production Dates : APR 26, 2005 - OCT 11, 2007

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On some of the potentially affected vehicles, a mechanical key ignition switch installed as a replacement part may contain a ball spring which could be susceptible to long-term wear and possible fatigue breakage. If the ball spring breaks, the retention force of the ignition switch is reduced. If heavier items are attached to the ignition key and the vehicle is driven over rough surfaces, the weight of the items may exceed the retention force of the broken ball spring and pull the ignition switch from the "ON" position to the "ACC" position.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the ignition switch is pulled from the "ON" position to the "ACC" position causing the engine to stop running while the vehicle is in motion, there may be an increased risk of a crash. If a crash occurs under this condition, the airbag system may not react as designed, increasing the risk of injury.

Description of the Cause : Due to improper tooling maintenance on rollers used in the manufacturing process of subject ignition switch ball springs, stress-risers on certain ball springs may have formed, resulting in a potential diminished long-term fatigue performance.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Alpha Technology Corporation

Address : 1450 McPherson Park Drive

Suite 200 PO Box 168 Howell MICHIGAN 48844-0168

Country : United States

Chronology :

August 23, 2018 - The mechanical key ignition switch supplier informed Subaru Corporation (Subaru) that it had identified a tooling maintenance issue potentially affecting ball springs produced during a certain time period and installed in switches from specific replacement part LOT numbers.

August 27, 2018 – Subaru issued a hold for all potentially affected replacement ignition switch parts in inventory.

September 2018 to February 2019 – Subaru conducted testing for various vehicle mounting conditions. Excessive weight was simulated using multiple keys (up to 10), which were attached to the ignition key ring. Bench vibration testing was conducted to assess the subject condition and its potential effect on long-term

durability of the ignition switch. At the conclusion of the testing, Subaru determined that if the ball spring is broken, it could not rule out the potential for inadvertent ignition switch movement from the "ON" position to the "ACC" position during certain rough driving conditions with heavier items attached to the ignition key ring.

September 2018 to March 2019 – Inventory replacement ignition switch parts and assemblies were returned to the supplier where the LOT numbers were inspected. Additionally, Subaru identified vehicles that may have had a replacement ignition switch installed within the timeframe of interest.

April 4, 2019 – Throughout the timeframe identified in this chronology, Subaru monitored all sources of field information and data. While Subaru continues to be unaware of any field incidents attributable to this issue, out of an abundance of caution, Subaru decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : For all the potentially affected vehicles, Subaru dealers will inspect the LOT number of the ignition switch and if it is within the affected range, replace it with a remedied one.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Replacement ignition switches are stamped with a LOT number corresponding to a production date outside of the affected range.

Recalled Component Name: SWITCH IGNITION
Recalled Component Description: Ignition Switch
Recalled Component Part numbers: 83131KG000, 83131AG000

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The rollers used for formation of the ball springs were replaced with rollers without imperfections on June 15, 2017.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner notification will occur within 60 days. Dealer notification is scheduled to begin on or about April 12, 2019.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : APR 12, 2019 - APR 12, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 10, 2019 - MAY 10, 2019

* NR - Not Reported