

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

23V-647

Manufacturer Name : Subaru of America, Inc.

Submission Date : SEP 21, 2023

NHTSA Recall No. : 23V-647

Manufacturer Recall No. : WRN-23



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Subaru of America, Inc.

Address : One Subaru Drive

Camden NJ 08103

Company phone : 844-373-6614

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 4,311

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2023-2023 Subaru Outback

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles potentially equipped with an affected center support brace were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a center support brace which was properly manufactured are not affected.

The recall population includes certain 2023 model year Outback vehicles. The number of potentially affected Outback vehicles is 2,490.

Production Dates : MAR 21, 2023 - MAR 31, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2023-2023 Subaru Legacy

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles potentially equipped with an affected center support brace were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a center support brace which was properly manufactured are not affected.

The recall population includes certain 2023 model year Legacy vehicles. The number of potentially affected Legacy vehicles is 366.

Production Dates : MAR 21, 2023 - MAR 30, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2023-2023 Subaru Ascent

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles potentially equipped with an affected center support brace were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a center support brace which was properly manufactured are not affected.

The recall population includes certain 2023 model year Ascent vehicles. The number of potentially affected Ascent vehicles is 1,043.

Production Dates : MAR 20, 2023 - MAR 29, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2023-2023 Subaru Impreza

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : STATIONWAGON

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles potentially equipped with an affected center support brace were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a center support brace which was properly manufactured are not affected.

The recall population includes certain 2023 model year Impreza vehicles. The number of potentially affected Impreza vehicles is 264.

Production Dates : MAR 22, 2023 - MAR 31, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2023-2023 Subaru Impreza

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue: Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Vehicles potentially equipped with an affected center support brace were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles equipped with a center support brace which was properly manufactured are not affected.

The recall population includes certain 2023 model year Impreza vehicles. The number of potentially affected Impreza vehicles is 148.

Production Dates : MAR 22, 2023 - MAR 27, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Some mounting surfaces for the propeller shaft center support brace bolts may have been inadvertently painted during the supplier's manufacturing process. If these mounting surfaces are painted, the support brace bolts may not retain the specified torque.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the worst case, if both of the center support bolts completely come out due to continuous vibration, the front end of the propeller shaft could separate, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Masking applied to the center support brace mounting surfaces prior to painting may not have been fully seated on some of the bolt mounting surfaces.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Occupants may experience irregular sounds and/or vibrations from the propeller shaft area during vehicle operation.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : PROP SHAFT AY ECC

Component Description : Propeller Shaft Assy

Component Part Number : 27111XC00C

Component Name 2 : PROP SHAFT ASSY

Component Description : Propeller Shaft Assy

Component Part Number : 27111AN12A

Component Name 3 : PROP SHAFT ASSY

Component Description : Propeller Shaft Assy

Component Part Number : 27111AN13A

Component Name 4 : PROP SHAFT AY ECC

Component Description : Propeller Shaft Assy

Component Part Number : 27111FL04C

Component Name 5 : PROP SHAFT AY EMC

Component Description : Propeller Shaft Assy

Component Part Number : 27111FL05C

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Hitachi Astemo Americas, Inc

Address : 34500 Grand River Ave.

Farmington Hills Michigan 48335

Country : United States

Chronology :

April 3, 2023 – A low torque value of a fixing bolt of the propeller shaft center support brace was identified during an inspection sampling at the factory.

April 4, 2023 – Subaru opened an investigation with the supplier. Subaru initiated a 100% inspection of propeller shaft center support assemblies in response to the initial supplier observation that there may be an issue in the paint masking process.

April 27, 2023 – The supplier presented the findings of their investigation, including the scope of affected parts shipments.

May 24, 2023 – Subaru determined the broad scope of potentially affected vehicles.

June - August, 2023 – Subaru and the supplier conducted endurance-vibration testing on the propeller shaft center support and fixing bolts.

September 14, 2023 – For the entire population of potentially affected vehicles, Subaru is not aware of any field reports, warranty claims, or VOQs. However, out of an abundance of caution, Subaru decided to conduct a safety recall.

Subaru is not aware of any reports involving accident or injury related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : For all the potentially affected vehicles, Subaru dealers will clean the bolt seating surfaces of the center support brace, install new bolts and tighten to the specified torque.

Subaru will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs according to the general plan submitted in May 2022.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : N/A

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Subaru began 100% inspection of propeller shaft center support assemblies on April 4, 2023.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer notification is expected to occur by September 22, 2023.
Owner notification is scheduled to begin on or about November 20, 2023.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 22, 2023 - SEP 22, 2023

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 20, 2023 - NOV 20, 2023

* NR - Not Reported