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By Recall Management Division at 7:10 am, May 13, 2013



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(4 pages)
SUBARU

Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc.

c/o Subaru of America
Subaru Plaza
PO Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000
856-488-8500
856-488-8669 fax

May 13, 2013
Ref. No.: GR13-032

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Part 573 Defect Information Report – Steering Column Disengagement on 2013MY Subaru Legacy and Outback Vehicles

Dear Ms. Lewis,

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. (SOA) and Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. (FHI), submits the enclosed notification and report concerning a defect of the steering column assembly on certain 2013 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign is: WQI-45

If you have any questions on the enclosed report, please contact me at (443) 430-3619 or jfro@subaru.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Frooshani".

John Frooshani
Safety Activities Manager
Government Relations
Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.

Defect Information Report (49 CFR Part 573.6)

573.6(c)(1) - Manufacturer's Name

Vehicle Fabricating Manufacturers:

Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. ["FHI"]
1-7-2 Nishi-Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 160-8316, Japan

Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. ["SIA"]
5500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, Indiana 47903

Designated U.S. Agency:

Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc.
2235 Rt. 70 West
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

573.6(c)(2)(i) - Identification of Vehicles Containing the Defect

Based on vehicle production records, we have determined from production dates that the recall affected passenger car population is as follows:

Make: Subaru
Model Year(s): 2013
Model(s): Legacy and Outback vehicles
Production Dates: Certain vehicles manufactured from Feb 15, 2012 through June 15, 2012.

573.6(c)(2)(iv) – Information Regarding Manufacturer of Defective Component

Information regarding the manufacturer of the defective component (i.e. manufacturer of the defective steering column assembly installed on certain 2013 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles sold in the United States) is provided below:

Identification of Component: Steering column assembly installed on certain 2013 model year Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles
Component Manufacturer: NSK Steering Systems America, Inc.
Component Manufacturer's Address: 110 Shields Drive / Bennington, VT 05201
Component Manufacturer's Phone Number: 802-442-5448
Component's Country of Origin: United States

573.6(c)(3) - Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Approximately 5,379 vehicles are estimated to potentially contain the defect.

573.6(c)(4) - Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

Although the percentage of affected vehicles likely to actually experience the failure is unknown, replacement of each car's steering column assembly will be performed on all of the potentially affected vehicles.

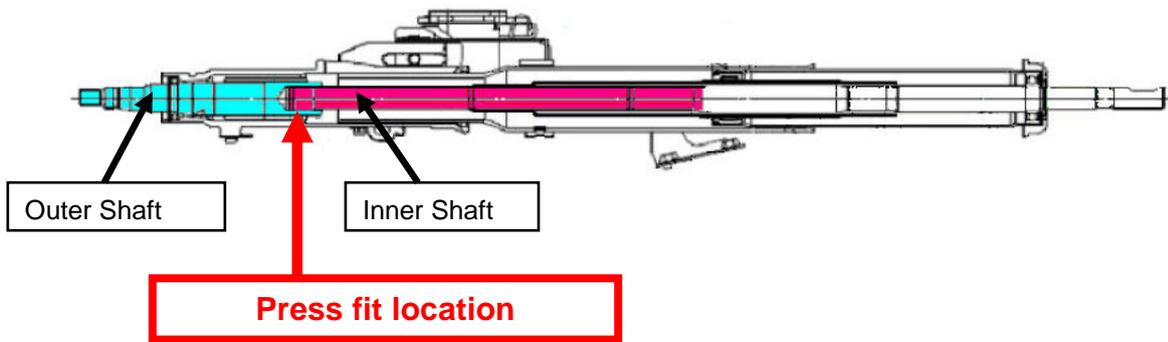
573.6(c)(5) - Description of the Defect

The steering column assembly contains a splined inner and outer shaft. The splined shafts are intended to be a tight press fit. Subaru found that the press fit was insufficient to maintain contact between the inner and outer shafts. This insufficient contact could allow the shafts to become disengaged from one another. In this case, the driver would lose the ability to steer the vehicle and a crash could occur.

Steering Column Assembly



Cross Sectional View of Steering Shaft Assembly



573.6(c)(6) – Chronology of Principal Events

June 14, 2012: Disengagement of steering shaft was discovered at SYO (Subaru Yard Operations) and a Stop Sale/Stop Ship was enacted to visually inspect the vehicles. Upon results of this visual inspection, vehicles were either repaired or released.

February 19, 2013: Customer complaint received regarding loss of steering ability.

April 9, 2013: Subsequent customer complaint received regarding loss of steering ability. FHI received a Technical Report from SOA about the steering disengagement in these two vehicles. As a result of this Technical Report, FHI started an investigation of the history of the two vehicles and discovered that they were visually inspected.

May 8, 2013: FHI finished their investigation, which revealed that the visual inspection conducted in June 2012 may not have been effective. As a result of their investigation, FHI decided to conduct a safety recall in the U.S. market.

573.6(c)(8) - Description of the Manufacturer's Remedy Program

- (i) The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace the steering column assembly with a new one.
- (ii) Subaru of America, Inc. expects to notify U.S. dealers on or around May 13, 2013. It is expected that owner notification will begin within 30 days. Subaru will update NHTSA if the situation changes significantly.

573.6(c)(10) - Submission of Recall Communications

Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc. will provide copies of all notices, bulletins and other recall related communications within 5 days after their distribution.

573.6(c)(11) - Manufacturer's Campaign Number

Our identification code for this recall campaign is: WQI-45

577.5(a) - Submission of Owner Notification Letter

A copy of the owner notification letter will be submitted to NHTSA's Recall Management Division at least 5 days prior to mailing.