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By Recall Management Division at 10:15 am, Jul 07, 2014



SUBARU

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

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000
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14V-399
4 PAGES

July 3, 2014
Ref. No.: GR14-046

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 – Front passenger airbags inflators installed on certain 2003-2004MY Subaru Legacy, Outback and Baja Vehicles and 2004MY Subaru Impreza (including WRX/STI) 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. and Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., submits the enclosed notification and report concerning a defect of the front passenger airbag inflators installed on certain 2003-2004 model year Subaru Legacy, Outback and Baja vehicles and 2004 model year Subaru Impreza (including WRX/STI) vehicles sold in the United States. Our internal designation for this recall campaign is: WQL-48.

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 information from the supplier (TK Holdings, Inc./Takata) and Subaru's vehicle production records, we have determined from production dates that the recall affected passenger car population is as follows:

Make: Subaru
Model Year(s): 2003-2004
Model(s): Legacy and Outback vehicles
Production Dates:

Model Year	Model	Production Dates	
		Start-of-Production	End-of-Production
2003	Legacy	01/22/2003	05/14/2003
2004	Legacy	03/17/2003	02/10/2004
2003	Outback	02/18/2003	04/15/2003
2004	Outback	02/28/2003	02/11/2004

Make: Subaru
Model Year(s): 2003-2004
Model(s): Baja vehicles
Production Dates:

Model Year	Model	Production Dates	
		Start-of-Production	End-of-Production
2003	Baja	01/22/2003	05/06/2003
2004	Baja	03/03/2003	07/21/2004

Make: Subaru
Model Year(s): 2004 Impreza
Model(s): Impreza Sedan and Wagon (including WRX/STI) vehicles
Production Dates:

Model Year	Model	Production Dates	
		Start-of-Production	End-of-Production
2004	Impreza Sedan	01/08/2003	05/15/2003
2004	Impreza Wagon	01/08/2003	05/14/2003

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 front passenger airbag inflators installed on certain 2003-2004 model year Subaru Legacy, Outback and Baja vehicles and 2004 model year Subaru Impreza (including WRX/STI) vehicles sold in the United States) is provided below:

Certain 2003-2004 model year Subaru Legacy, Outback and Baja vehicles

- **Identification of Component:** Front passenger airbag inflator
- **Component Manufacturer:** TK Holdings, Inc.
- **Address:** 888 16th Street NW – Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006
- **Phone Number:** (202)729-6332
- **Component’s Country of Origin:** Mexico

Certain 2004 model year Subaru Impreza (including WRX/STI) vehicles

- **Identification of Component:** Front passenger airbag inflator
- **Component Manufacturer:** Takata Corporation
- **Address:** ARK Hills South Tower 11F
4-5 Roppongi 1-Chone, Minatoku, Tokyo 106-8488 Japan
- **Phone Number:** +81-3-3582-3222
- **Component’s Country of Origin:** Japan

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

Regarding the population identified in 573.6(c)(2)(i) above:

Legacy, Outback, and Baja: 3,151
 Impreza: 5,406
Total: 8,557

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

Although the percentage of affected vehicles is unknown, replacement of each vehicle’s front passenger air bag inflators will be performed on all of the potentially affected vehicles.

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

The subject vehicles are equipped with front passenger air bag inflators which could have been assembled with improperly manufactured propellant wafers. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger side frontal air bag, improperly manufactured propellant wafers could cause the inflator to rupture with metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants.

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

June 6 2014: The supplier (i.e. TK Holdings, Inc./Takata) informed FHI that some of the airbag inflators of insufficient quality may have been supplied to FHI. FHI requested the supplier to investigate the manufacturing history of the suspect inflators.

June 25 2014: The supplier informed FHI that certain front passenger air bag inflators manufactured within a specific production period could contain propellant wafers of insufficient quality caused by improper manufacturing. Upon investigating the manufacturing history of the suspect inflators by using the inflator's serial number and the corresponding vehicle VIN in which it was installed in, it was determined that some of these inflators could have been installed in certain Subaru vehicles.

June 27 2014: Based on the above information received from the supplier, FHI concluded that Subaru will perform a safety recall in the U.S. market.

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

The remedy plan calls for dealers to replace the passenger airbag inflator with a newly manufactured one.

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: WQL-48.

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.