



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 4, 2014

Mr. John Frooshani
Safety Activities Manager, Government Relations
Subaru of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000

NVS-215kjs
14V-471

Subject: Passenger's Air Bag Inflator may Rupture

Dear Mr. Frooshani:

This serves to acknowledge receipt of Subaru of America, Inc.'s (Subaru) letter of August 1, 2014, notifying NHTSA of Subaru's intention to conduct a limited regional recall in Florida, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands of certain vehicles it manufactured originally equipped with certain TK Holdings, Inc. (Takata) air bag inflators. We confirm that Subaru has notified the agency that it has not decided there is a safety defect in its vehicles, and is conducting this recall out of an abundance of caution in the absence of a cognizable defect trend. The objectives of the recall are twofold. The primary goal is to protect the passengers in these areas for which there have been isolated incidents of inflator rupture on a wide variety of manufacturer makes and models. The secondary goal is to capture air bag inflators for analysis and testing. This recall is being conducted in response to an agency proposal that the involved manufacturers conduct this action in the interests of motor vehicle safety and in order to support a coordinated and aggressive effort, together with Takata to ascertain if there is safety defect in the front passenger's inflators, determine any cause(s), and conduct the necessary additional safety recalls if applicable.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

SAAB/9-2X/2005
SUBARU/BAJA/2003-2005
SUBARU/IMPREZA/2004-2005
SUBARU/LEGACY/2003-2005
SUBARU/OUTBACK/2003-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 14V-471

Mfr's Report Date: August 1, 2014

Components: AIR BAGS

Potential Number of Units Affected: To Be Determined

Summary:

Subaru of America, Inc. (Subaru) is conducting a limited regional recall for certain model year 2003-2005 Subaru Legacy, Outback, and Baja vehicles, 2004-2005 Subaru Impreza (including WRX/STI) vehicles, and 2005 Saab 9-2X vehicles that are currently or have ever been registered in Florida, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and equipped with Takata-brand passenger side air bag inflators. Upon deployment of the passenger side frontal air bag, excessive internal pressure may cause the inflator to rupture.

Consequence:

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of an affected passenger frontal air bag, the inflator could rupture with metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants.

Remedy:

Subaru will notify owners, and dealers will replace the passenger side air bag inflators free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Subaru at 1-800-782-2783.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please supply the total of the affected population as soon as it has been determined.

Please submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers for our review. Although Subaru has not identified a safety defect in its vehicles, in order to maximize owner response and minimize confusion, the owner letter should be fully compliant with 49 CFR Part 577.5. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Subaru has not yet informed NHTSA of its anticipated dates for owner notification and remedy availability. We ask that you please keep us informed as those plans develop.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement