

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 22V-522

**Manufacturer Name :** Subaru of America, Inc.

**Submission Date :** JUL 21, 2022

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 22V-522

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** WRE-22



### 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 :** 59,934

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 1 %

### Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2015-2021 Subaru WRX

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** 4-DOOR

**Power Train :** GAS

**Descriptive Information :** -Description of the issue:

The operating environment of the Backup Lamp Switch may expose the internal switch contacts to heated oil. When heated, sulfur in the oil may cause a chemical reaction with the materials used on the switch terminal contact surfaces and plate spring. This chemical reaction may cause corrosion and a non-conductive film to form on the contacts resulting in poor electrical conductivity. Over time, the switch may become inoperative.

The basis for how the recall population was determined:

Potentially affected vehicles were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not affected by this recall were assembled using a switch manufactured using different contact and plate spring material or do not achieve the same operating temperatures within the switch mechanism as the affected vehicle population.

The recall population includes 2015-2021 model year WRX vehicles. The number of potentially affected WRX vehicles is 59,934.

**Production Dates :** NOV 14, 2013 - OCT 21, 2021

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The operating environment of the Backup Lamp Switch may expose the internal switch contacts to heated oil. When heated, sulfur in the oil may cause a chemical reaction with the materials used on the switch terminal contact surfaces and plate spring. This chemical reaction may cause corrosion and a non-conductive film to form on the contacts resulting in poor electrical conductivity. Over time, the switch may become inoperative which may result in the backup lamps not illuminating when in reverse gear, the rear view monitor, if equipped, not displaying and the indicator in the combination meter not displaying "R".

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the backup lamps do not illuminate when the vehicle is in reverse gear, this condition may reduce the awareness of other motorists or road users of the driver's intention to operate the vehicle in reverse, increasing the risk of a crash. Additionally, a rear-view camera (if equipped) that does not display an image can reduce the driver's view of what is behind the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : With long term exposure to heated oil, a non-conductive copper sulfide film may build up and corrosion may occur on the terminal contact and plate spring surfaces resulting in electrical failure of the switch.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : If the Backup Lamp Switch were to fail, a driver may notice the rear-view monitor (if equipped) not displaying and the indicator in the combination meter not displaying "R".

**Involved Components :**

Component Name 1 : SW AY BACK LAMP

Component Description : Back Lamp Switch

Component Part Number : 32005AA111, 32005AA112

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : DIAMOND&amp;ZEBRA ELECTRIC MFG.CO., LTD.

Address : 1-15-27, Tsukamoto, Yodogawa-ku

Osaka, Osaka Prefecture Foreign States 532-0026

Country : Japan

## Chronology :

October 2019 – Subaru received the first field report from the U.S. market

February 2020 – Subaru identified a non-conductive film that builds up on the terminal contact surfaces and plate spring surfaces, when exposed to heated oil, resulting in electrical failure of the switch. Test results indicated that this condition could only be achieved under excessive or abusive driving conditions.

March 2021 – Subaru identified an unexpected increase in field reports from another market and determined that further investigation was required.

September 2021 – Based on additional testing, Subaru found that the non-conductive film can build up at a slightly lower temperature than originally determined when continuously exposed to the heated oil over extended driving periods.

July 14, 2022 – Subaru is aware of only one technical report and 0 VOQs in the U.S. market. Subaru is not aware of any crashes or injuries resulting from this condition. 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 conduct an inspection and replace backup lamp switch with improved one, if necessary, at no cost to the customer.

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

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** The remedy component terminal and plate spring materials were changed.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** The recalled switch assembly was installed through the end of 2021MY production. A different switch assembly was introduced for 2022MY start of production.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Owner notification will occur within 60 days. Dealer notification is scheduled to begin on or about July 25, 2022.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** JUL 25, 2022 - JUL 25, 2022

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** SEP 19, 2022 - SEP 19, 2022

\* NR - Not Reported