

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

23V-755

Manufacturer Name : Subaru of America, Inc.**Submission Date :** NOV 09, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 23V-755**Manufacturer Recall No. :** WRQ-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 : 95,830

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2022-2022 Subaru Forester

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue:

An insufficient weld between the switch stator and cover of the inhibitor switch may allow water intrusion and, over time, the switch may become inoperative.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Affected vehicles were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in this recall are equipped with an inhibitor switch that has been manufactured with an appropriate weld.

The recall population includes certain 2022 model year Forester vehicles. The number of potentially affected Forester vehicles is 16.

Production Dates : JUL 26, 2021 - JUL 27, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2021-2021 Subaru Crosstrek

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue:

An insufficient weld between the switch stator and cover of the inhibitor switch may allow water intrusion and, over time, the switch may become inoperative.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Affected vehicles were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in this recall are equipped with an inhibitor switch that has been manufactured with an appropriate weld.

The recall population includes certain 2021 model year CROSSTREK vehicles. The number of potentially affected CROSSTREK vehicles is 37,195.

Production Dates : FEB 08, 2021 - JUL 30, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2021-2023 Subaru Legacy

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue:

An insufficient weld between the switch stator and cover of the inhibitor switch may allow water intrusion and, over time, the switch may become inoperative.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Affected vehicles were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in this recall are equipped with an inhibitor switch that has been manufactured with an appropriate weld.

The recall population includes certain 2021 to 2023 model year LEGACY vehicles. The number of potentially affected LEGACY vehicles is 7,149.

Production Dates : MAR 18, 2021 - AUG 25, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2021-2023 Subaru Outback

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : -Description of the issue:

An insufficient weld between the switch stator and cover of the inhibitor switch may allow water intrusion and, over time, the switch may become inoperative.

-The basis for how the recall population was determined: Affected vehicles were identified using vehicle production records.

-How the recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall: Vehicles not included in this recall are equipped with an inhibitor switch that has been manufactured with an appropriate weld.

The recall population includes certain 2021 to 2023 model year OUTBACK vehicles. The number of potentially affected OUTBACK vehicles is 51,470.

Production Dates : MAR 17, 2021 - MAY 16, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Over time, moisture intrusion may cause the inhibitor switch to become inoperative. An inoperative inhibitor switch may result in the backup lamps not illuminating when in reverse gear, the rear-view monitor not displaying, the transmission gear select indicator in the instrument panel not being displayed, or inability to start the engine.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : An inoperative inhibitor switch may result in the backup lamps not illuminating when in reverse gear, the rear-view monitor not displaying, each of which increases the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : A worn welding jig resulted in an insufficient weld thickness between the stator and cover. This condition may result in a loss of sealing integrity and allow water intrusion. The moisture may then cause electrical corrosion leading to failure of the switch.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : If the inhibitor switch were to fail, a driver may notice one or more warning signs including the rear-view monitor not being displayed, the backup lamps not illuminating, no transmission gear selection displayed in the instrument panel; Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL) displayed in the instrument panel or experience the inability to start the engine.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : INHIBITOR SWITCH

Component Description : SWITCH-INHIBITOR

Component Part Number : 31918AA120

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : TOKAI RIKA CO., LTD.

Address : 3-260 Toyota, Oguchi-cho, Niwa-gun

Aichi Foreign States 480-0195

Country : Japan

Chronology :

June 2021 – Subaru received the first technical report from the U.S. market indicating 'D' or 'R' was not displayed on the combination meter when in drive or reverse ranges, respectively. After examining the part, no abnormality was found.

June 16, 2021 – Supplier rotated the welding jig out of the production process under normal maintenance.

July 2021 – June 2022 – Additional failed parts were collected for further investigation. While most did not find a conclusive cause, later parts collected began to show signs of water intrusion.

June 2022 – September 2022 - The supplier conducted testing to reproduce the failure mode. The cause was determined to be a defect in the welding jig used from February to June 2021.

August 2022 - July 2023 – Subaru continued to monitor field data. During this period, seven (7) new non-dealer field reports were submitted and all non-dealer field reports, including those prior to this period, involved alleged symptoms such as check engine light illumination or inability to start the engine and no cases indicated a crash or injury.

July 2023 – October 2023 – Subaru escalated this topic for further consideration of field action after a data analysis predicted an increasing upward trend in claims. Following escalation, Subaru determined the extent of potential symptoms that could be caused by an inoperable inhibitor switch. Based on the results of this multidisciplinary review, Subaru reassessed this topic for safety and noncompliance implications.

November 2, 2023 - Out of an abundance of caution, Subaru decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall. Subaru is aware of twelve (12) technical reports in the U.S. market. Subaru is not aware of any crashes or

injuries resulting from this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : For all the potentially affected vehicles, Subaru dealers will replace the inhibitor switch with a new one 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 has been manufactured with an appropriate weld.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The recall condition was corrected at the supplier on June 16, 2021.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer notification is expected to occur on November 10, 2023

Owner notification is scheduled to begin on or about January 8, 2024

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 10, 2023 - NOV 10, 2023

Planned Owner Notification Date : JAN 08, 2024 - JAN 08, 2024

* NR - Not Reported