

## FAQs: TAKATA AIRBAG INFLATOR RECALL (SEPTEMBER 11, 2017)

### 1. Why is this recall necessary?

The recall is due to the possibility that the front passenger Takata airbag inflator may over time be susceptible to moisture intrusion. This could make the inflator assembly prone to rupture during an accident, increasing the risk of occupant injury. Subaru Australia has decided to carry out this recall, following notification from the factory (Subaru Corporation of Japan).

### 2. Which airbag inflators are affected by this recall?

This recall pertains to the "passenger's front airbag inflator only".

### 3. Are the recalled Takata airbag inflators in affected Subaru vehicles the alpha or beta type?

We are advised by Subaru Corporation (the manufacturer of Subaru vehicles in Japan) that all the recalled airbag inflators in affected Subaru vehicles are the beta-type, front passenger side only.

### 4. Which Subaru vehicles are affected by this recall?

Several models and variants across the Subaru range are affected by this recall, a complete list of which can be found below in question 17.

### 5. Why are some vehicles being supplied with "like-for-like" airbag inflator replacements?

Several media outlets have reported that a number of manufacturers (including Subaru) are replacing some defective airbag inflators with "like for like" replacement parts. Whilst this is technically correct, it is very important to note that the "age" of the airbags is one of the key contributing factors as to whether a defect will have manifested itself or not. **In short, a new inflator (even if it is of the same specification as the replaced inflator) is unlikely to suffer from a defect in the short term, whereas the risk of the presence of a defect is higher with an aged inflator.** As a result, Subaru Australia has elected to fit new like for like inflators (instead of waiting for future replacement parts from an alternative supplier to become available) to some of the affected vehicles in order to substantially reduce the overall risk associated with leaving aged inflators in some affected vehicles, and thereby better protect our customers.

It is important to note that the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has commissioned 3 external research agencies to evaluate the root cause of the defect in the non-desiccated Takata PSAN (phase-stabilized ammonium nitrate-based propellant) based airbag inflators. Based on the results of that evaluation, the NHTSA has concluded that the likely root cause of the defect is a function of time, temperature cycling and environmental moisture. Based on NHTSA's analysis, NHTSA estimates that the service life expectancies of these inflators range from 6 to 25 years, depending on environmental exposure, among other factors. The agencies have concluded that these non-desiccated frontal Takata PSAN air bag inflators do not pose an unreasonable risk to safety under the US Safety Act until they reach a certain level of propellant degradation.

Subaru Corporation (the manufacturer of Subaru vehicles in Japan) has confirmed to Subaru Australia that Subaru Corporation agrees with the above NHTSA's report.

So put simply, on the evidence so far, from a safety perspective it is better to install a new "like for like" Takata inflator in an aged vehicle than to wait for a new alternative replacement unit to become available.

These "like for like" replacement airbag inflators will need to be replaced in the future with an airbag inflator from an alternative supplier (currently this alternative supplier is ZF TRW\*).

It is currently anticipated that a future recall for these "like for like" replacement airbag inflators will be announced by March 2020.

\*ZF TRW will use non PSAN as propellant, which will not degrade in the same way as the Takata factory installed/replacement airbag inflator. This is not a "like-for-like" part, and therefore should not require subsequent replacement for issues related to Takata inflators.

**6. How many airbag inflators has Subaru replaced with airbag inflators that will need to be subsequently replaced again?**

As at 26 July 2017, 9,973 vehicles have been fitted with new airbag inflators that will need to be subsequently replaced again. To date, these inflators were installed on affected VINs for the following vehicles:

- Model Year 2004 - 2007 Impreza (including WRX & WRX STI) vehicles
- Model Year 2008 - 2011 Impreza (including WRX & WRX STI) vehicles
- Model Year 2008 - 2011 Forester vehicles

As at 26 July 2017, we have sourced 63,670 airbag inflators that will not require subsequent replacement and expect (based on current factory advice) an additional 76,882 of these airbag inflators to be delivered by the end of 2017.

**7. Are new Subaru vehicles affected by the Recall?**

Subaru is not selling any new vehicles with the recalled Takata airbag inflators that use ammonium nitrate as the propellant.

**8. Under what conditions can the airbag deploy?**

The potential problem can only occur during an accident of sufficient severity to deploy the front passenger airbag. Careful, safe driving helps minimise the potential for vehicle accidents. Accident severity is detected by sensors installed in the vehicle. Airbags will not deploy in anything other than a relatively severe accident scenario. For more information on when your airbags should (or should not) deploy, please refer to your Owner's Manual.

**9. Can I drive my Subaru?**

The driver's side front airbag inflator is not affected by this recall, however, you should continue to take all precautions to ensure careful, safe driving to help minimise the potential for vehicle accidents that may result in the deployment of the front passenger airbag.

**10. Can the airbags be disconnected?**

Subaru Australia cannot recommend that the airbag system be disconnected as this would mean your vehicle would be in breach of the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

**11. Have there been any incidents in Australian imported Subaru Vehicles caused by this issue?**

To the best of our knowledge, there have been no reported incidents of Takata airbag inflator rupture in Subaru vehicles in Australia.

**12. What is Subaru doing to address this issue?**

Potentially affected customers have been contacted by Subaru Australia, advising them of the recall. Several shipments of replacement parts for certain models and variants have already been received by Subaru Australia and are being dispatched to authorised Subaru Retailers to rectify some of the affected vehicles. Replacement parts for the balance of affected Subaru vehicles are being prepared in Japan and will be dispatched as soon as possible.

**13. How long does the repair take?**

All work will be conducted for free and is estimated to take approximately 2.0 hours.

**14. Is there anything Subaru can do to speed-up the replacement process?**

Subaru Australia is working closely with Subaru Corporation to secure supply of replacement parts as soon as possible. In turn Subaru Corporation is working closely with Takata and other suppliers to expedite the sourcing and supply of replacement airbag inflators for Subaru cars.

**15. What impact do the recent Takata bankruptcy in Japan and the US announcement have on Australia?**

As reported in the media in June 2017, motor vehicle airbag manufacturer, Takata Corporation, filed for bankruptcy protection in both Japan and the United States on Monday 26 June 2017. Subaru Corporation of Japan (the manufacturer of Subaru vehicles), has confirmed that this development will not affect the number or timing of airbag recall parts to be supplied to Australia as part of the Takata airbag recall.

Replacement parts for the Takata airbag inflator recall continue to be prepared in Japan.

**16. How many Subaru vehicles in Australia are involved in the recall?**

A total of 177,290 Australian imported Subaru vehicles are involved in the recall.

## 17. What vehicles are affected by the recalls for the related airbag inflator issue?

Below are the Takata airbag inflator announcements (as at September 11, 2017):

- **April 2017:** A total of 33,228 vehicles were involved in that recall:
  - 11,234 Model Year (MY) 2008-2013 Impreza (including WRX & WRX STI) vehicles
  - 12,313 MY 2009-2012 Forester vehicles
  - 1,182 MY 2004-2009 Liberty vehicles
  - 635 MY 2004-2009 Outback vehicles
  - 673 MY 2007-2013 Tribeca vehicles
  - 432 MY 2010-2014 Exiga vehicles
  - 3,798 MY 2010-2014 Liberty vehicles
  - 2,961 MY 2010-2014 Outback vehicles
- **November 2016:** A total of 34,563 vehicles were involved in that recall:
  - 18,619 MY 2008-2009 Impreza (including WRX & WRX STI) vehicles
  - 15,944 MY2009 Forester vehicles
- **July 2016:** A total of 75,943 vehicles were involved in that recall:
  - 39,816 MY 2004-2009 Liberty vehicles
  - 32,206 MY 2004-2009 Outback vehicles
  - 3,921 MY 2007-2009 Tribeca vehicles
- **May 2015:** A total of 33,556 vehicles were involved in that recall:
  - 33,556 MY 2004-2007 Subaru Impreza and WRX vehicles

## 18. If customers have enquiries, what should they do?

Customers can view if their vehicle is affected by this recall by typing in their vehicle's VIN at [subaru.com.au/recall](http://subaru.com.au/recall) or contact the Recall Customer Relations Team on 1300 550 994 (Monday to Friday 8.00am – 8.00pm AEST and Saturday 8.30am – 5.00pm AEST).