

# SUBJECT:

- 2005~06MY Legacy/Outback Sedan and Wagon Rear Wheel Bearing Extended Warranty Program
- NUMBER: 03-58-08 DATE: 04/30/08

### **INTRODUCTION**

During a quality review, Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) discovered that there is a slight possibility that one or both of the vehicle's rear wheel bearings may, over time, develop a noise condition that causes the bearing to produce a "whining" sound. This noise condition does not pose a safety problem and does not adversely affect the normal operation of the bearing. However if the vehicle experiences this condition, it should be corrected by replacing the affected bearing, which will eliminate the noise.

As a result of this finding and in the interest of customer satisfaction, SOA is extending the warranty coverage period for the vehicle's rear wheel bearings to 8 years (96 months) or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. Warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle was delivered to the first retail purchaser. If the vehicle was used as a demonstrator or company vehicle before being sold at retail, warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle was first placed in demonstrator service. Should one or both of the vehicle's rear wheel bearings require replacement as a result of a noise condition within this extended warranty period, the repair is to be performed free of charge to the customer.

### **OWNER NOTIFICATION**

SOA will prepare and mail Owner Notification Letters to advise owners of affected vehicles that the warranty coverage for rear wheel bearings has been extended. The letters will be mailed on or around May 5, 2008.

A copy of the Owner Notification Letter is included at the end of this bulletin.

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CAUTION: VEHICLE SERVICING PERFORMED BY UNTRAINED PERSONS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY TO THOSE PERSONS OR TO OTHERS. Subaru Service Bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians ONLY. They are written to inform those technicians of conditions that may occur in some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper servicing of the vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do the job correctly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that this Service Bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition.

# **AFFECTED VEHICLES**

YEAR	MODEL	VIN RANGE	
2005	Legacy / Outback Sedan	All	
2005	Legacy / Outback Wagon	All	
2006	Legacy / Outback Sedan	Up to VIN # 6*207670	
2006	Legacy / Outback Wagon	Up to VIN # 6*320672	

#### **OWNER REIMBURSEMENT FOR PREVIOUS REPAIRS**

Owners are being advised in the owner notification letter that if they have previously paid for repairs related to this Service Program, they may be entitled to reimbursement. The owners are further advised, to qualify for any reimbursement they must submit the original repair invoice to Subaru of America, Inc. Please review the owner notification letter which explains this procedure so that you are familiar with it and can assist owners with any questions.

### PARTS INFORMATION

PART NAME	PART NUMBER	
Hub Unit Complete Rear	28473AG00B	

#### **REPAIR PROCEDURE/INFORMATION**

Road test the vehicle to confirm which side the noise is coming from.

Refer to the applicable Subaru Service manual for wheel bearing removal and installation procedure.

Replace bearing as needed.

Road test vehicle to confirm noise is gone; if not, the opposite side wheel bearing will need replacement.

### WARRANTY/CLAIM INFORMATION

For vehicles covered under the extended warranty period, the repair may be claimed using the following:

LABOR DESCRIPTION	LABOR OPERATION #	FAIL CODE	LABOR TIME
Rear Hub Bearing, R&R Left side	A 612-235	NAX-25	0.8
Rear Hub Bearing, R&R Right side	A 612-241	NAX-25	0.8
Rear Hub Bearing, R&R Both sides	A 612-236	NAX-25	1.5

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# **OWNER NOTIFICATION LETTER**

#### May 2008

Dear Subaru Owner:

We would like to thank you for selecting a 2005 or 2006 Model Year Subaru Legacy or Outback. At Subaru, we take pride in our products and are committed to your continued satisfaction. During a quality review, we discovered that there is a slight possibility that one or both of your vehicle's rear wheel bearings may, over time, develop a noise condition that causes the bearing to produce a "whining" sound. This noise condition does not pose a safety problem and does not adversely affect the normal operation of the bearing. However if your vehicle experiences this condition, it should be corrected by replacing the affected bearing, which will eliminate the noise.

As a result of this finding and in the interest of your satisfaction, we are extending the warranty coverage period for your vehicle's rear wheel bearings to 8 years (96 months) or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. Warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle was delivered to the first retail purchaser. If the vehicle was used as a demonstrator or company vehicle before being sold at retail, warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle before being sold at retail, warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle before being sold at retail, warranty coverage begins on the date the vehicle was first placed in demonstrator service. Should one or both of your vehicle's rear wheel bearings require replacement as a result of a noise condition within this extended warranty period, an authorized Subaru dealer will perform this repair at no cost to you. All other warranty terms and conditions, including exclusions, will continue to apply.

To locate the nearest Subaru Dealer, you can access our web site at www.Subaru.com and go to the dealer locator function. Or, you may call us at 1-800SUBARU3 (1-800-782-2783) during normal business hours.

In the event that you have already paid for replacement of one or both rear wheel bearings to correct a noise condition, you may be eligible for reimbursement. The actual sum reimbursed will be equivalent to the amount Subaru of America would credit an authorized Subaru dealer in your area for the rear wheel bearing replacement.

Please send the original service repair order, which has complete information including the name of the repair facility, date of repair, mileage at the time of repair, complete vehicle identification number (17 digits), and your name, with correct mailing address and telephone number to the address listed below.

Subaru of America, Inc. Customer Dealer Service Department Attention: Legacy/Outback Rear Wheel Bearing Extended Warranty Program P.O. Box 6000 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000

Please send original receipts only and retain a photocopy for your records. Please be assured that we will attempt to process your reimbursement request as quickly as possible, but it may take up to 90 days for this process to be completed.

If you have moved or sold your vehicle, please complete the enclosed prepaid postcard and mail it to us.

Your continued satisfaction with your Subaru is important to us. Please retain a copy of this letter in your Subaru Warranty & Maintenance Booklet for future reference.

Sincerely,

Subaru of America, Inc.

Notice to Lessors

The lessor of a vehicle who receives this letter is requested to provide a copy of it to the vehicle lessee(s) within 10 business days from receipt. The lessor should also keep a record of the lessee(s) to whom this letter is sent, the date sent, and the applicable vehicle identification number (VIN). (For the purposes of this section, a lessor means a person or entity that in the last twelve months prior to the date of this notification has been the owner, as referenced on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles. A leased vehicle is a vehicle leased to another person for a term of at least four months.)