

Valient Airbag Alert :: July 15, 2015

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RECALL: Subaru Recalls 32,400 Imprezas to Fix Potential Airbag Problem

Subaru of America is recalling some Impreza compact cars for an issue with the occupancy detection system that can prevent the front passenger airbag from deploying during a crash. The recall covers 32,400 Imprezas from the 2012 model year manufactured from April 21, 2011, through Feb. 15, 2012, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. It does not include the WRX or STI models. Use of an electronic device such as a cell phone plugged into the accessory power outlet by someone seated in the passenger seat can trigger the defect. If the passenger is touching a metal part of the vehicle that is electrically grounded, the occupant control unit may deactivate the detection system. This can prevent the airbag from deploying in the event of a crash. When this happens, the driver is warned by an airbag warning light and a passenger airbag indicator that illuminates "off." Affected owners will be notified via mail and can have the necessary repair made for free at any Subaru dealership.

SOURCE: Automotive News

ACQUISITION: KSS Acquires Helmet Manufacturer Logico Design S.r.l

Key Safety Systems (KSS), a leading global supplier of advanced engineered safety products for automotive and non-automotive markets, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Logico Design S.r.l, an Italian manufacturer of premium branded helmets, and the exclusive worldwide distributor of MOMODESIGN™ safety helmets. The acquisition was completed by the KSS Specialty Products Division on June 29, 2015. The Specialty Products Division operates in four safety-critical market segments: Aerospace, Industrial, Personal Protection and Ultra Premium. The helmets developed and produced by Logico Design are sold worldwide for motorcycle and recreational use. The Logico Design production capability will be transferred into the nearby KSS Tregnago facility allowing the merged entities to operate at a higher level of efficiency. "This acquisition reflects KSS' continued commitment to expand our business and enter new markets", said Tony Nardone, President KSS Specialty Products division. "Adding safety helmets to our existing fall protection technology portfolio positions KSS for further growth in the personal protection market."

SOURCE: Key Safety Systems

CRASH TEST: 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe Earns Four-Star Safety Rating From Federal Government

The 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV earned a four-star overall safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Five stars is the highest rating. The Tahoe received five stars in the front and side crash tests and three stars in the rollover crash test. The rating applies to rear-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive versions of the 2016 Tahoe. The 2016 Tahoe, a carryover vehicle that was redesigned for the 2015 model year, is expected to arrive at Chevrolet dealerships this summer. Standard safety equipment on the 2016 Tahoe includes seven airbags and a rearview camera. One unusual optional safety feature is a front center airbag, which is available on bucket-seat models only. New for 2016 is an enhanced Driver Alert package feature power-adjustable pedals, forward-collision alert, IntelliBeam headlights, lane-keep assist and a safety alert seat. The seat pulses to warn the driver of a dangerous situation. It is standard on Tahoe LT and LTZ models. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has not rated the 2016 Tahoe. Key competitors to the Tahoe include the Ford Expedition, GMC Yukon, Nissan Armada and Toyota Sequoia. Edmunds says: Car shoppers keeping score will note that the 2016 Ford Expedition earned the top five-star safety rating from NHTSA. The 2016 GMC Yukon earned a four-star overall safety rating. The 2016 Nissan Armada and Toyota Sequoia have not been rated.

SOURCE: Edmunds

JAPAN: Daihatsu Says to Recall 292,000 Cars in Japan with Takata Air Bags

Daihatsu Motor Co said it would recall about 292,000 cars including the Esse minivehicle in Japan to replace air bag inflators made by supplier Takata Corp. Takata is at the center of the recalls of vehicles equipped with air bag inflators that can explode with too much force and spray metal fragments inside vehicles. Regulators have linked eight deaths to the component.

SOURCE: Reuters

FINES: Fiat Chrysler in Talks to Head Off NHTSA Fines Over Recalls

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles CEO Sergio Marchionne said Tuesday the automaker is in talks with U.S. auto safety regulators to head off potential fines over the company's handling of recalls involving 11 million vehicles. Marchionne gave an impromptu press conference on the sidelines of a ceremonial handshake to kick off contract talks with the UAW. Regarding the discussions with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Marchionne said, "There's nothing signed," but said the company needs to change the way it deals with regulators going forward. Marchionne didn't elaborate on the discussions but indicated he hopes the company can avoid fines. "We have adapted not in the best possible way to the new regime," Marchionne said, referring to the more active approach to enforcement taken by NHTSA administrator Mark Rosekind. NHTSA convened a hearing July 2 on Chrysler's handling of recalls. The company could face fines up to \$700 million. "We have to continue to work with the agency to put us on the right path," Marchionne said. NHTSA said in a statement Tuesday that "one possible outcome is a consent order in which Fiat Chrysler agrees to address issues with its recall performance. That remains a possibility. We hope to have steps to announce soon after the public comment period after the hearing ends on July 17."

SOURCE: Automotive News

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