

ATTENTION:

GENERAL MANAGER PARTS MANAGER
 CLAIMS PERSONNEL SERVICE MANAGER

IMPORTANT - All Service Personnel Should Read and Initial

SUBARU 

SERVICE BULLETIN

APPLICABILITY: 1998~current MY Forester
 2000~current MY Legacy/Outback Wagon
 2002~current MY Impreza Wagon
SUBJECT: Rear Gate Stay Diagnosis

NUMBER: 12-85-05R
DATE: 02/25/05

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides information to properly diagnosis the rear gate stays and also avoids unnecessary replacement of non-failed stays.

REPAIR PROCEDURES/INFORMATION

Visual inspection

Check the lower end of the rear gate stay for foreign material. If foreign material (as an example, sand particle) gets lodged at the end of the cylinder it will cause the gas within the cylinder to leak (see Figure1). If foreign material is found lodged at the end of the cylinder, the cylinder should be replaced.

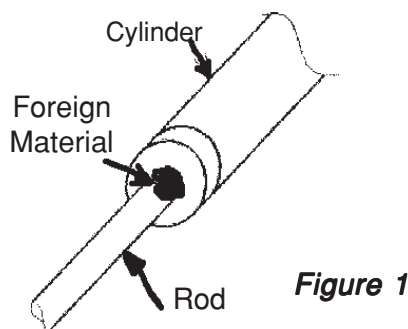


Figure 1

Note: Read all cautions prior to diagnosing and proper disposal as listed in the applicable service manual.

Measurement check

If you cannot determine which stay may have leaked, they can be checked separately using the following method. A push-pull or brake pedal effort gauge should be used. Each stay needs to be checked individually.

continued...



CAUTION: VEHICLE SERVICING PERFORMED BY UNTRAINED PERSONS COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY TO THOSE PERSONS OR TO OTHERS.

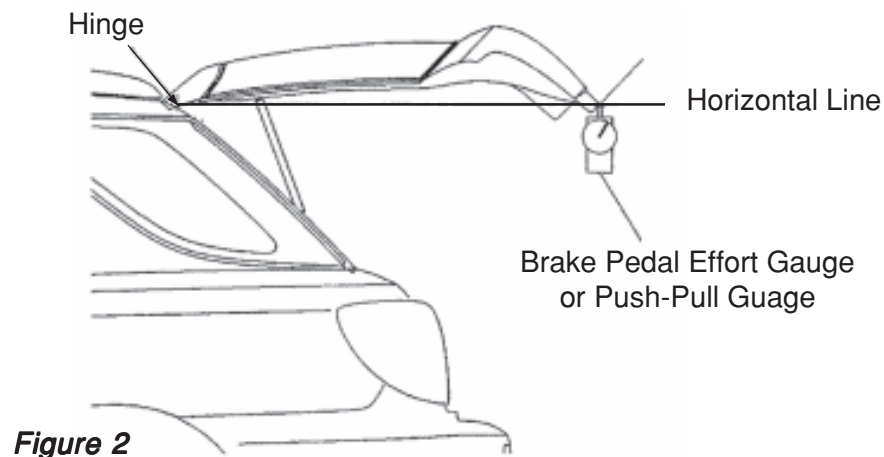
Subaru Service Bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians ONLY. They are written to inform those technicians of conditions that may occur in some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper servicing of the vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, 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.



Note: If using a brake pedal effort gauge, it is advisable to put duct tape on the gauge on the area that will come in contact with the vehicle. Doing so will protect the painted surface of the vehicle's rear gate.

Disconnect one stay (refer to the applicable service manual) at a time. Be sure to zero the needle or gauge on your measuring device before proceeding with any testing. Using the brake pedal effort gauge, measure the load by placing the gauge at the lower edge of the rear gate (see Figure 2). Push up on the rear gate using the gauge and stop when the gate edge is parallel (horizontal) with the rear gate hinge. Record your measurement (see figure 2). Compare your measurements with the ones on the following chart to determine if replacement is necessary. If the measurement is within specification, reinstall the removed stay and remove the opposite one.

Repeat the measuring procedure. If both stays are within specification no replacement is necessary.



This chart provides specifications to determine if the rear gate stay(s) has failed.

	LEGACY	IMPREZA	FORESTER 98MY thru 02MY	FORESTER 03MY and later
Not Failed	Less than 60N (6.1 kgf, 13.5 lb)	Less than 30N (3.0 kgf, 6.7 lb)	Less than 40N (4.0 kgf, 9.0 lb)	Less than 45N (4.6 kgf, 10.1 lb)
Failed	160N (16.3 kgf, 36.0 lb)	100N (10.2 kgf, 22.5 lb)	130N (13.3 kgf, 29.2 lb)	110N (11.2 kgf, 24.7 lb)

Note: Above values will vary slightly depending upon ambient temperatures. Failed values listed are that of a stay where the gas has leaked out completely. Values will vary depending upon the amount of remaining gas in the cylinder.

CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT/WARRANTY INFORMATION

For vehicles within the Basic New Car Limited Warranty period, refer to the Warranty Labor Time guide for claim information.