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Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit/>. You may call Docket Management at (202) 366-9324. You may visit the Docket Room to inspect and copy comments at the address above between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, except holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Comments must be received by close of business November 24, 2000.

This notice is published as a matter of discretion, and the fact of its publication should in no way be considered a favorable or unfavorable decision on the application, as filed, or as may be amended. We will consider all comments submitted in a timely fashion, and will take such action thereto as may be deemed appropriate.

Dated: November 6, 2000.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-28827 Filed 11-8-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### Announcing the Third Quarterly Meeting of the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Meeting announcement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Third Quarterly Meeting of members of the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network. CIREN is a collaborative effort to conduct research on crashes and injuries at nine Level 1 Trauma Centers which are linked by a computer network. Researchers can review data and share expertise, which could lead to a better understanding of crash injury mechanisms and the design of safer vehicles.

**DATE AND TIME:** The meeting is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 30, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Room 6200-04 of the U.S. Department of Transportation Building, which is located at 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CIREN System has been established and

crash cases have been entered into the database by each Center. NHTSA has held three Annual Conferences (two in Detroit and one in conjunction with STAPP in San Diego) where CIREN research results were presented. Further information about the three previous CIREN conferences is available through the NHTSA website at: [http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/include/bio\\_and\\_trauma/ciren-final.htm](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/include/bio_and_trauma/ciren-final.htm). NHTSA held the first quarterly meeting on May 5, 2000, with a topic of lower extremity injuries in motor vehicle crashes and the second quarterly meeting on July 21, 2000, with a topic of side impact crashes. Information from the May 5 and July 21 meetings are also available through the NHTSA website.

NHTSA plans to continue holding quarterly meetings on a regular basis to disseminate CIREN information to interested parties. This is the third such meeting. The topic for this meeting is thoracic injuries in motor vehicle crashes. Subsequent meetings have tentatively been scheduled for March and June 2001. These quarterly meetings will be in lieu of an annual CIREN conference.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Donna Stemski, Office of Human-Centered Research, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6206, Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-5662.

Issued on: November 2, 2000.

**Raymond P. Owings,**

*Associate Administrator for Research and Development, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-59-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2000-6947, Notice 2]

#### Subaru of America, Inc.; Grant of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Non-Compliance

This notice grants the application by Subaru of America, Inc. (Subaru) to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 with respect to a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." Subaru has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 556, Subaru has also applied to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of

49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, "Motor Vehicle Safety." The basis of the grant is that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Notice of receipt of the application was published March 9, 2000, and an opportunity afforded for comment (65 FR 12615). The closing date was April 10, 2000. No comments were received.

#### Description of Noncompliance

Replacement seat belt assemblies were packaged without instruction sheets required by FMVSS No. 209 S4.1(k) and (l). All of the seat belt assemblies involved meet all other requirements of FMVSS No. 209.

Approximately 522 sets of replacement seat belt assemblies manufactured and sold were involved.

#### Subaru Submitted the Following in Support of Its Application

In accordance with FMVSS No. 209, S4.1(k) replacement seat belt assemblies must be accompanied by installation instructions for installing the assembly in a motor vehicle. These instructions "shall state whether the assembly is for universal installation or for installation only in specifically stated motor vehicles and shall include at least those items specified in SAE Recommended Practice J800c, Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Installation, November 1973.

Subaru understands SAE Recommended Practice J800c, it deals primarily with the threading of webbing and location and drilling of anchorage holes and is not relevant here since all affected Subaru vehicles have pre-existing anchorage holes. All of the affected replacement seat belt assemblies are supplied ready for use with fully threaded webbing.

Subaru believes that S4.1(k) is intended to prevent the mismatch of a seat belt assembly in the wrong model vehicle or the wrong seating position and prevent improper installation of a seat belt at the correct position.

In accordance with FMVSS No. 209, S4.1(l) requires instructions addressing the importance of warning seat belts "snugly and properly located on the body" and information about seat belt maintenance. Subaru believes that since the owner's manual already provides proper usage and maintenance information to the vehicle owner and operator, incorrect usage and maintenance by the vehicle owner is highly unlikely.

Subaru has corrected all the replacement seat belt assembly inventory for shipment to dealers and will provide additional instruction documents to dealers with inventory subject to the noncompliance.

Replacement seat belt assemblies sold at retail to customers has not resulted in owner complaints as a result of this inconsequential noncompliance.

Subaru believes that, based upon the information described above, this is an inconsequential noncompliance.

NHTSA has reviewed Subaru's application and, for the reasons