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By Recall Management Division at 2:49 pm, Jun 20, 2014

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

June 19, 2014

14V-353
(4 pages)

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Honda and Acura Passenger Airbag Inflator Safety Improvement Campaign

Honda Vehicles

2003-2005 Model Year Accord, Civic, CR-V, Element, Odyssey, Pilot

Acura Vehicles

2003-2005 Model Year MDX

2005 Model Year RL

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On June 19, 2014 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) decided to conduct a safety improvement campaign for the passenger's airbag inflator in certain model year Honda and Acura vehicles listed above. Honda has not made a determination that a safety defect exists, however we are choosing to participate in the collection of parts in order to support ongoing investigation.

As discussed with NHTSA ODI staff, this safety improvement campaign is not being conducted under the Safety Act. We are submitting this letter in a format consistent with the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 573 for the sake of clear communication; however Honda does not have sufficient information to reach a defect determination at this time.

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (HAM)
Honda of Canada Mfg. (HCM)
Honda of the U.K. Mfg. (HUM)
Honda Mfg. of Alabama (HMA)
Honda de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (HDM)

Manufacturer's agent: Jay Joseph
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Identification of vehicles:

Certain model year Honda and Acura vehicles that are currently registered in, or were first sold in geographic locations known for high absolute humidity: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

See ATTACHMENT for VIN information.

Description of the basis for the determination of the vehicle population:

The vehicle population was based on manufacturing records and market occurrence of the involved symptom. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

Identification of component:

Component:	Front Passenger Airbag Inflator
Country of Origin:	USA
Manufacturer:	T.K. Holdings, Inc.
Contact Name	Kazuo Higuchi
Address:	888 16 th Street NW - Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006
Telephone No.:	(202) 729-6332

Total number of vehicles: TBD

Condition:

Certain Honda and Acura vehicles operated in areas that are known for high absolute humidity may contain a passenger (frontal) airbag inflator that could produce excessive internal pressure. If an airbag deploys with excessive internal pressure, it may cause the inflator to rupture, possibly propelling metal fragments upward toward the windshield, or downward toward the front passenger's foot well and potentially causing injury to a vehicle occupant.

Timeline:

Jun 13, 2014 NHTSA contacted Honda to discuss the possibility of conducting a safety improvement campaign to support the ongoing investigation of the cause of energetic passenger airbag inflators, focusing on locations in the U.S. that experience high absolute humidity levels and high temperatures.

Campaign Plan:

The owners of all vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda or Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will replace the passenger's airbag inflator, free of charge. Owner notification letters will reference this being conducted as a safety recall.

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: TBD
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: TBD
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: TBD
The estimated date of completion of the notification: TBD
Proposed owner notification letter submission: June 19, 2014

Manufacturer's campaign number: TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Assistant Vice President
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb

ATTACHMENT

Make/Model	Description	VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture
Honda Accord	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Honda Civic	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Honda CR-V	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Honda Element	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Honda Pilot	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Acura MDX	Certain 2003 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2004 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD
Acura RL	Certain 2005 model year	VIN range TBD Production range TBD