

November 11, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

On November 4, 2008, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the driver airbag of certain 2001 model year Honda Accord and Civic automobiles, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Honda Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)
Honda de Mexico (HDM)

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

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Civic	Certain 2001 model year	1HGEM21921L006340 ~ 1HGEM21931L047205 11/1/2000 ~ 2/2/2001
		1HGEN26451L000073 11/29/2000
		1HGES15551L035127 ~ 1HGES16591L040457 11/3/2000 ~ 1/6/2001
		1HGES26761L035935 ~ 1HGES26701L043979 11/6/2000 ~ 2/1/2001
		2HGES16591H519507 ~ 2HGES16531H553684 11/8/2000 ~ 2/8/2001
		2HGES26771H519559 ~ 2HGES267X1H553415 11/9/2000 ~ 2/8/2001

Honda Accord	Certain 2001 model year	1HGCF86601A030716 ~ 1HGCF86621A071333 11/7/00 ~ 2/8/01
		1HGCG16571A017330 ~ 1HGCG165X1A057529 10/25/00 ~ 3/30/01
		1HGCG22541A006409 ~ 1HGCG22501A017164 10/25/2000 ~ 2/13/2001
		1HGCG32581A007276 ~ 1HGCG32701A013574 11/7/2000 ~ 1/31/2001
		1HGCG56601A024295 ~ 1HGCG56681A072241 10/27/2000 ~ 2/12/2001
		1HGCG66811A026919 ~ 1HGCG66521A100516 10/31/2000 ~ 4/12/2001
		3HGCG66541G701363 11/29/2000

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

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN ranges reflect possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 3,940

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

In certain vehicles, the driver's airbag inflator could produce excessive internal pressure. If an affected airbag deploys, the increased internal pressure may cause the inflator to rupture. Metal fragments could pass through the airbag cushion material possibly causing injury to vehicle occupants.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 2007	AHM received first claim information along with photographs and forwarded them to HAM. HAM initiated an investigation.
Sept. 2007	The first claim was closed. AHM received parts and provided them to HAM.
Jan. 2008	A program was started to collect parts from suspect propellant lots and analyze them.
Sep. 11, 2008	A vehicle was inspected which had another unusual driver airbag deployment.

Nov. 4, 2008 HAM completed the investigation and HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will replace the airbag inflator free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Nov. 7, 2008

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: Dec. 17, 2008

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Dec. 22, 2008

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Dec. 22, 2008

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

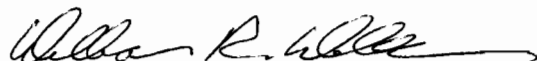
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

Q96

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis