

# CENTER FOR AUTO SAFETY

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October 30, 2014

David Friedman, Deputy Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Friedman:

The Center for Auto Safety is deeply troubled by NHTSA's secrecy and conflicting messages on deadly Takata airbags. There's no answer from the agency as to the difference between driver and passenger airbag inflators. The agency says all the 2014 Takata campaigns are safety recalls for safety defects but most auto makers say they are not safety defects or safety recalls. If the agency believes these are safety defects, it should make an initial determination of a safety defect and proceed to a mandatory safety recall as provided under 49 USC § 30118. The agency is all over the map on what states are affected. How can Honda have more high humidity states than other manufacturers?

Most importantly, how does the agency know Takata airbags being used in recalls and service campaigns are safe? The most recent confirmed death is that of Hien Thi Tran in Orlando FL on September 29, 2014 in a 2001 Honda Accord. According to NHTSA, the only outstanding campaign on Ms. Tran's vehicle was the geographic service campaign 14V-351. (Attachment A.) None of the earlier campaigns on 2001 Accords, all of which were safety recalls, were listed as outstanding by NHTSA. (08V-593, 09V-259, 10V-041, 11V-260 in April 2011 and 11V-260 expansion in December 2011.) Honda's website was more specific as to the Tran vehicle showing service campaign 14V-351 as outstanding but safety recall 11V-260 as done. (Attachment B.)

Honda's website shows completed recall 11V-260 was in response to the expansion in December 2011. (Attachment C.) This is deeply troubling because the replacement module had to be a much later version likely made in 2010 or 2011 which is not even under investigation by NHTSA. This raises the question of whether defective Takata modules are being replaced with defective Takata modules. The Center calls on NHTSA to expand the PE14-016 investigation to all Takata modules through 2011 and to invoke its authority under 49 USC § 30167(b) to make all records related to Takata investigations and recalls public.

Sincerely,



Clarence M. Ditlow  
Executive Director

cc: Secretary Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara  
Senator John Thune  
Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Rep. Fred Upton  
Rep. Tim Murphy

Inspector General Calvin Scovell  
Senator Jay Rockefeller  
Senator Claire McCaskill  
Senator Edward Markey  
Rep. Henry Waxman  
Rep. Diana DeGette

Attachment A

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/vinLookup>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The page title is "Recalls Results Look-up by VIN".

**Recalls Results Look-up by VIN** Print

**VIN:** 1HGCG165X1A005057  
**Year:** 2001 **Make:** Honda **Model:** Accord Sedan  
**Number of Open Recalls:** 1

<b>NHTSA Recall Number:</b> <a href="#">14V-351</a>	<b>Recall Date:</b> August 29, 2014
<b>Manufacturer Recall Number:</b> JJ5	

**SUMMARY:**  
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC. (HONDA) IS CONDUCTING A LIMITED REGIONAL RECALL FOR CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2001-2007 ACCORD (4-CYLINDER), 2001-2002 ACCORD (V6), 2001-2005 CIVIC, 2002-2006 CR-V, 2003-2011 ELEMENT, 2002-2004 ODYSSEY, 2002-2007 PILOT AND 2006 RIDGELINE VEHICLES ORIGINALLY SOLD, OR CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, SOUTH CAROLINA, TEXAS, PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND EQUIPPED WITH TAKATA-BRAND AIR BAG INFLATORS. UPON DEPLOYMENT OF THE DRIVER SIDE FRONTAL AIR BAG, EXCESSIVE INTERNAL PRESSURE MAY CAUSE THE INFLATOR TO RUPTURE.

**SAFETY RISK:**  
IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH NECESSITATING DEPLOYMENT OF THE DRIVER SIDE FRONTAL AIR BAG, THE INFLATOR COULD RUPTURE WITH METAL FRAGMENTS STRIKING AND POTENTIALLY SERIOUSLY INJURING THE VEHICLE OCCUPANTS.

**REMEDY:**  
HONDA WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE VEHICLES AND REPLACE ANY DEFECTIVE AIR BAG INFLATORS, AS NECESSARY, FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT HONDA CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 1-800-999-1009. HONDA'S NUMBER FOR THIS RECALL IS JJ5, JG7, JG8, JG9, JH0, JH1 AND JH2.

**RECALL STATUS:** **Recall INCOMPLETE**

**MANUFACTURER NOTES:**

THIS RECALL DATA LAST REFRESHED: Oct 30, 2014

**Additional Safety Information**  
Besides the VIN search tool you just used, NHTSA offers additional safety information based on a vehicle's make, model, and model year and not tied to any particular VIN. A search by vehicle make, model, and model year gives you access to information about technical service bulletins, NHTSA investigations, and owner complaints, as well as safety recalls on aftermarket equipment that is often not linked to a particular VIN or even to your vehicle's manufacturer.

To search NHTSA's safety information based on your vehicle's make, model, and model year, please go to the [Safety Issues](#) section and follow the instructions there.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows icons for Internet Explorer, File Explorer, Windows Media Center, Firefox, Adobe Reader, and other applications. The system tray shows the time as 3:10 PM on 10/30/2014.

Attachment B

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://owners.honda.com/service-maintenance/recalls?vin=1HGCG165X1A005057>. The page title is "Check Recalls on Your Vehicle".

**Check Recalls on Your Vehicle**

Honda is concerned about safety. That's why the Honda Owners site provides current recall information about your car, crossover or SUV. The Honda Owners site recall listings are based on your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) so we can provide exact information for your specific vehicle. To view any current recalls for your vehicle, please enter your VIN or sign in.

**Returning Users** Sign in for quick access to your saved vehicle information.

**2001 Accord Sedan**

The VIN you entered matches a:

**VIN:** 1HGCG165X1A005057  
**Trim:** EX V6 w/Leather 4 Speed Automatic  
**Exterior Color:** Firepepper Red Pearl  
**Interior Color:** Ivory

[Check another VIN](#)

**Current 2001 Accord Sedan Recalls**

<b>Description</b>	<a href="#">1999-2001 Odyssey, 2000-2001 Accord &amp; Prelude Automatic Transmission Warranty Extension</a>
<b>Type</b>	Recall Customer Letter
<b>Status</b>	Open
<b>Description</b>	<a href="#">2001-02 Accord, 2001-03 Civic/Odyssey, 2002 CR-V, 2003 Civic Hybrid/Pilot Driver Airbag Expansion</a> <a href="#">en Español</a>
<b>Type</b>	Recall Customer Letter
<b>Status</b>	Fixed
<b>Description</b>	<a href="#">2001-07 Accord Driver's and/or Passenger's Airbag Inflator</a> <a href="#">en Español</a>
<b>Type</b>	Recall Customer Letter
<b>Status</b>	Open

**For More Information**

To find out more Honda recall information, you may also contact [your local Honda dealer](#) or use either of the addresses below:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Honda Automobile Customer Service  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746  
Phone: 800-999-1009

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

500

5 things you should know about collision repair. [FIND OUT](#)

Tire Rebates at your local Honda dealer. [Click Here](#)


Windows taskbar: 3:52 PM 10/30/2014

Attachment C

http://owners.honda.com/Documentum/Campaigns/Q96\_English\_211.pdf

File Edit Go to Favorites Help

This is an electronic version of one of two letters that could be mailed to you. Please wait until you receive the actual letter before contacting your dealer.



December 2011 NHTSA Recall 11V-260

**Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag Inflator**

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

**What is the reason for this notice?**  
Honda has decided that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001-2002 model year Accord vehicles, 2001-2003 model year Civic and Odyssey vehicles, 2002 model year CR-V vehicles and 2003 model year Civic Hybrid and Pilot vehicles. In some 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 or fatality to vehicle occupants.

**What should you do?**  
You must have your vehicle's driver's airbag inflator replaced; this work will be done *free of charge*. You must have the inflator replaced even if, earlier this year, you 1) had your vehicle inspected and were told that the driver's airbag inflator did not need to be replaced, as we have now determined that the inflator must be replaced, or 2) received a separate driver's airbag recall notification letter and did not take any action in response to it. In all cases, call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have the driver's airbag inflator replaced. The replacement process may be completed in approximately 30 minutes; however, your vehicle will need to be at the dealer for a longer period of time. We recommend that you plan to leave your vehicle for half a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

**Who to contact if you experience problems?**  
If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Honda Automobile Customer Service  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may

3:53 PM 10/30/2014