

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 7:35 am, Mar 14, 2013

HONDA

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

March 13, 2013

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: Recall Notification
2005 Model Year Honda Pilot and Acura RL
2005-2006 Model Year Acura MDX
VSA System

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On March 7, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) system of certain 2005 model year Honda Pilot, Acura RL and certain 2005-2006 Acura MDX automobiles, and is providing 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC (HMA)
Honda of Canada Mfg. (HCM)

Manufacturer's agent: Jay Joseph
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 Pilot	Certain 2005 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HKYF18715H500056 - 2HKYF18575H573964 August 24, 2004 – August 29, 2005
	Manufactured at HMA	5FNYP18535B000025- 5FNYP18585B068546 July 29, 2004 – August 29, 2005
Acura MDX	Certain 2005 model year	2HNYD18225H500046 - 2HNYD18895H560345 Sept. 16, 2004 – Sept. 16, 2005
	Certain 2006 model year	2HNYD18946H500001-2HNYD18206H500810 Sept. 19, 2005 – Sept. 22, 2005
Acura RL	Certain 2005 model year	JH4KB165X5C000001 - JH4KB16515C021598 March 1, 2004 – June 29, 2005

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

The recall population was determined based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Vehicle:	Honda Pilot, Acura MDX	Acura RL
Component:	VSA Modulator Assy	VSA Modulator Assy
Country of Origin:	USA	Japan
Manufacturer:	Nissin Brake Ohio, Inc.	Nissin Kogyo Co., LTD.
Contact Name:	Takayuki Ueno	Kazuo Koyama
Address:	1901 Industrial Drive P.O. Box 886 Findlay, Ohio	840, Kokubu, Ueda-city Nagano Prefecture 386-8505, Japan
Telephone:	419-425-6725	81-268-21-2229

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 183,576

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The VSA system may not operate as designed. During manufacturing of the VSA electronic control unit (ECU) circuit board it is possible that an electrical capacitor was damaged. If the capacitor has been damaged the VSA system may be capable of applying a small amount of braking force for a fraction of a second, even if the brake pedal has not been applied by the driver. If the driver does apply the brakes during a malfunction, the VSA system may employ the brake assist feature which would increase braking force.

In addition, a portion of the 2005 model year Pilots assembled at HMA and subject to the brake assist condition described above may have been assembled without tightening one of the VSA system electrical ground connector fasteners to the proper torque specification. An improperly torqued fastener can result in increased electrical resistance in the VSA system, causing an incorrect signal to be sent to the VSA ECU. If an incorrect signal is received by the VSA ECU braking force may applied while driving.

Either of these conditions may increase the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 4, 2012 - AHM received an Opening Resume from NHTSA for DP12-002.

August 30, 2012 – The first VSA ECU was received from the market alleging brake activation on a 2005 model year Honda Pilot.

October 9, 2012 – AHM received the opening resume from NHTSA for PE12-028.

October 11, 2012 – AHM received the closing resume for DP12-002.

November 14, 2012 – NHTSA demonstrated a simulated condition that produced VSA activation due to G302 ground failure during a meeting with Honda.

January 30, 2013 – Testing confirmed increased resistance due to electrical corrosion within the Tantalum Capacitor.

February 21, 2013 – AHM received the opening resume for EA13-002.

March 7, 2013 – HMC determined that a safety defect exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of January 4, 2013 Honda has received a total of 86 claims related to this issue, as listed in the opening resume of EA13-002.

Honda has not received any crash or injury reports related to this issue.

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 or Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will install a partial wiring harness containing a capacitor for the VSA modulator and, if necessary, inspect and tighten the affected electrical ground fastener. All of the work described above will be conducted free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: March 14, 2013

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: March 14, 2013

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: April 12, 2013

The estimated date of completion of the notification: April 19, 2013

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letter and other dealer communication 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:

Honda Pilot – S87, S88
Acura MDX, RL – S89

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cm