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Sent on 07 27 2013 **Expires on** 08 09 2013
From Acura Parts, Service & Technical Division, Campaign Administration
Subject Accessory Recall: 2014 MDX Trailer Hitch Harness

DATE: July 27, 2013

TO: All Acura Sales, Service & Parts Managers and Personnel
FROM: Acura Parts, Service & Technical Division, Campaign Administration
RE: Accessory Recall: 2014 MDX Trailer Hitch Harness

On July 12, 2013, Acura notified dealers of a **stop sale** order for all 2014 MDX Trailer Hitch Harness kits, and on July 19, 2013, Acura notified NHTSA of an accessory recall for the kits. Any new used units in dealer stock must be repaired per S/B 13-028: *Safety Recall: Accessory Trailer Harness Mislabeled* prior to sale. **Refer to VIN Inquiry status to determine which units in your inventory may be affected.**

Note: Vehicles with accessory trailer hitch harness kits installed should not be sold until the repair has been completed. Should an unrepaired vehicle cause any injury or damage because of the required recall repair, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify Acura for any resulting claims.

Basic Problem

Two wires on the accessory electric trailer brake controller subharness are mislabeled. If the electric trailer brake controller is connected to a trailer with electric brakes, the trailer's brakes may not work, or the brakes may be applied all the time.

The Repair

For vehicles with the subharness installed, the incorrect labels will be removed and the harness will be repaired; for vehicles with the subharness not installed, the labels will be removed and an updated version of the installation instructions will be provided to the client.

Vehicles that do not have accessory Trailer Hitch Harness kits installed do not require repair; please fill out and submit the attached [Campaign Status Change Request Form](#) to remove these vehicles from campaign eligibility.

Service Bulletin

In support of this recall, S/B 13-028 was posted to ISIS on July 27, 2013. It includes parts, tools, repair, and warranty information related to the campaign. Make sure that all steps in the bulletin are followed to ensure a successful repair.

Warranty and Repair Information

Warranty and repair information are detailed in S/B 13-028, which was posted to ISIS on July 27, 2013.

Client Notification

Acura expects to begin client notification in mid-August 2013.

As always, please be sure to check iN VIN status to determine if a particular vehicle is eligible for this recall.

Click [HERE](#) for the Q&A File in PDF format.

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CAMPAIGN STATUS CHANGE REQUEST FORM

OWNER'S NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:	PHONE: () -

VEHICLE ID:

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Recall # _____ (to the right of the VIN number on customer notices).

I am unable to complete the requested campaign for the following reason(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> I have never owned a vehicle with this vehicle identification number
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was destroyed
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was returned to the finance or lease company
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was stolen
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was sold (Please provide new owner information below)
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Recall Specific:

<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle does not have an Acura RDX trailer hitch installed (Recall #Q29)
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle does not have an Acura roof rack installed (For R31 MDX Silver roof rack only)
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle does not have an Acura MDX trailer hitch harness installed (Recall #JB2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signed by: Owner Svc Mgr. _____ Other: _____
(Dealer #)

2014 MDX Accessory Trailer Hitch Harness Safety Recall Q&A

What is the reason for this recall?	The section of wire harness provided with the accessory trailer hitch kit that is used to power the auxiliary brake controller was incorrectly assembled during production, and it may not properly power a trailer's brake controller when installed using provided instructions, potentially increasing stopping distances and increasing the risk of a crash when towing a trailer.
What does this wire harness normally do?	This section of wire harness is only used if the vehicle has an accessory brake controller installed. If an accessory brake controller is installed, this wire harness is used to power the brake controller and transmit braking information, including brake lights and applying the brakes, to a trailer with an independent braking system. Many small trailers do not have brakes, and many use "surge" brakes. Trailers without brakes or with surge brakes would not be affected by this wire harness.
Why does the wire harness not power the brake controller?	An incorrect electrical diagram was used in the manufacturing of the sub-harness in the trailer hitch accessory kit. The diagram mistakenly switched two of the four wires in the wiring harness, specifically the wire that powers the system and the wire that transmits the braking commands to the trailer. As a result, the sub-harness may not power the trailer brake controller (not part of Acura accessory kit) for the trailer, which could increase stopping distances.
When will clients be notified?	Client notification letters will be mailed in mid-August 2013. At that time, owners will be able to check their vehicle recall status online at www.recalls.acura.com .
What should a client do if their vehicle is experiencing a problem now?	This issue only affects the operation of trailers equipped with trailer brakes towed behind 2014 MDXs that have an Acura Genuine accessory trailer hitch accessory kit installed with an aftermarket trailer brake controller. Owners of affected MDXs that have installed an aftermarket brake controller should not tow a trailer with independent braking systems (trailers with no brakes or surge brakes are OK) until their wire harness is inspected by an Acura dealer.
Are all 2014 MDXs part of this recall?	No. Only 652 affected trailer hitch accessory kits were sold to dealers.
How will you identify the vehicles that require inspection and contact those clients?	We are contacting clients who may have purchased an affected accessory trailer hitch kit prior to identification of this issue.
Is there a potential to include other vehicles in the future?	We are confident that we have identified all of the potentially affected vehicles and do not expect to add any in the future.
Where were these vehicles built?	The vehicles are not affected, only vehicles that have installed the accessory trailer harness kit could be affected. This is not a vehicle concern, only the accessory wire harness for the trailer hitch. The 2014 Acura MDX is built at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, in Lincoln, Alabama.
Who is the supplier for the recalled part?	The wiring harness was supplied by Honda Access America directly.