



## Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag Inflator Can Be Over-Pressurized

### BACKGROUND

A manufacturing error can produce over-pressurization of the driver's (front) airbag inflator during airbag deployment. If an affected airbag deploys, the increased internal pressure may cause the inflator casing to rupture. Metal fragments could pass through the airbag cushion material, possibly causing an injury or fatality to vehicle occupants.

### CLIENT NOTIFICATION

Owners of affected vehicles will receive a notification of this campaign. An example of the client notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

Within the "applies to" VIN range, there are only 131 affected vehicles. To verify vehicle eligibility, you **must** check at least one of these items:

- The client has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on a VIN status inquiry.

In addition, check for a punch mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means this campaign has already been completed.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your used vehicle inventory. As a matter of federal law, these vehicles must be repaired before they are sold.

Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes an injury or damage because of the recalled item, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify American Honda for any resulting claims. To see if a vehicle is affected by this campaign, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install a driver's airbag inflator kit, then return the original, **undeployed** inflator to its supplier, **ideally within 48 hours of the repair**.

### PARTS INFORMATION

Driver's Airbag Inflator Kit:  
P/N 04770-S84-308

Includes inflator with wire harness, locknuts (4), felt tape, felt washers (4), Torx bolts (2), and shipping instructions.

NOTE: The inflator kit box must be used to return the old inflator to its supplier. Be careful not to damage the inflator kit box.

### WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

Operation Number: 7521F4

Flat Rate Time: 0.5 hour

Failed Part: P/N 06770-S84-A11ZA

Defect Code: 5SZ00

Symptom Code: R1300

Template ID: 09-033A

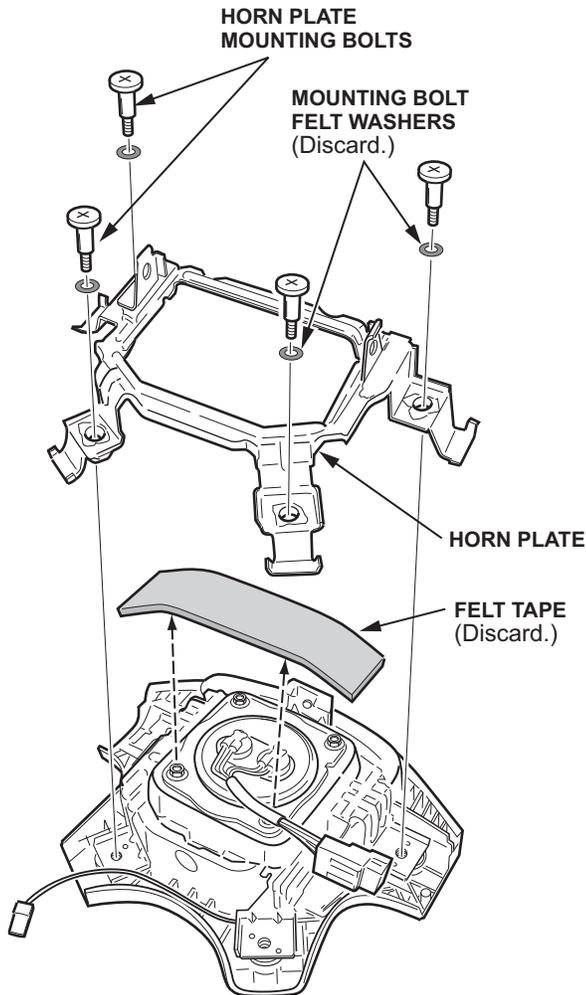
Skill Level: Repair Technician

### REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE: Be careful not to damage any parts when replacing the inflator, and **follow the procedure exactly**.

1. Remove the driver's airbag:
  - Refer to page 23-219 of the *1999–2003 3.2TL Service Manual*, or
  - Online, enter keywords **DRIVER AIR**, and select **Driver's Airbag Replacement** from the list.
2. Place the airbag, face down, on a clean shop towel.

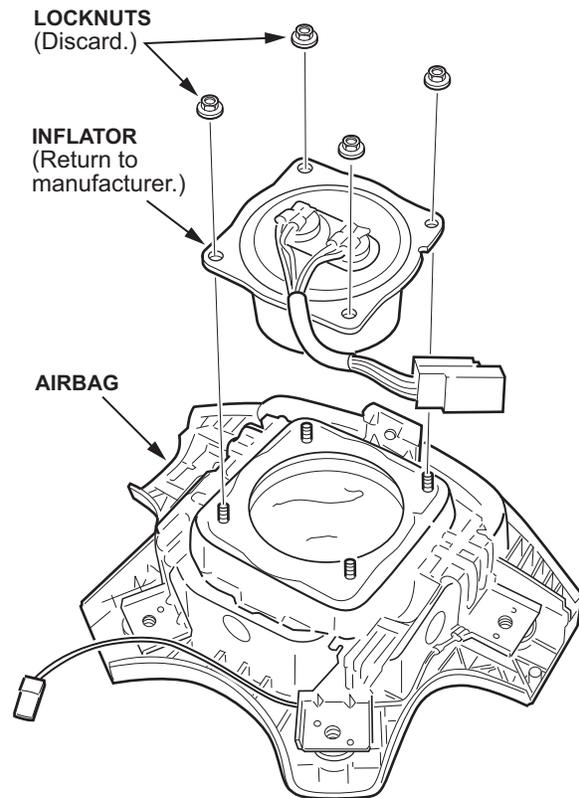
3. Remove the four horn plate mounting bolts, the mounting bolt felt washers, and the horn plate. The felt washers will not be reused.



4. Remove and discard the felt tape covering the lower two inflator locknuts.

5. Using needle-nose Vise Grips, remove the four locknuts from the inflator. The locknuts will not be reused.

NOTE: Do not remove the inflator from the airbag until you complete step 6.



6. Use shop air to clean any debris that may be on the inflator, then remove the inflator from the airbag.

NOTE:

- Do not allow any debris to enter the inflator opening in the airbag.
  - **Do not deploy the inflator.** The inflator must be returned to its supplier in the box the new inflator came in (see INFLATOR PACKING/ SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS).
7. Turn over the airbag (inflator side down), and shake it to remove any debris from the inflator opening.
8. Install the new inflator in the airbag with new locknuts. Torque the locknuts to **3.9 N·m (2.8 lb-ft, 34 lb-in)**.
9. Cover the lower two inflator locknuts with new felt tape.
10. Reinstall the horn plate with new felt washers on its mounting bolts. Torque the mounting bolts to **3.4 N·m (2.5 lb-ft, 30 lb-in)**, then make sure the horn plate moves freely.
11. Reinstall the driver's airbag using new Torx bolts:
- Refer to page 23-220 of the service manual, or
  - Online, enter keywords **DRIVER AIR**, and select **Driver's Airbag Replacement** from the list.

- Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN:

Center-punch here.

19UUAXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## INFLATOR PACKING/ SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

### NOTE:

- **Do not deploy the original inflator. Claims for deployed inflators will be charged back to your dealership.**
  - There is a 48-hour return shipment objective for the inflator.
  - The following instructions are also included in the return shipping box (the box that the new inflator came in).
1. Carefully insert the original inflator into the round opening in the return shipping box (the box that the new inflator came in).
  2. Close the top flap on the box, then double-tape the the box closed with 2-inch clear packing tape on the entire front seam and the side seams. Press down on the tape for good adhesion.
  3. Fill in this information on the FedEx airbill:
    - In the **From** section, add your name, address, and telephone number.
    - In the **Your Internal Billing Reference** section, add your 6-digit dealer number and the VIN.
    - In the **Does this shipment contain dangerous goods?** section, check the box next to **Yes per attached Shipper's Declaration**.
    - In the **Total Declared Value** section, do not add an amount.
  4. Fill in this information on the SHIPPER'S DECLARATION FOR DANGEROUS GOODS form:  
NOTE: If not already done, cross out the words CARGO AIRCRAFT ONLY in the TRANSPORTATION DETAILS box at the top left of the form. The shipper may reject your shipment if CARGO AIRCRAFT ONLY is not crossed out.
    - In the **Shipper** section, add your name and address.
    - In the **Air Waybill No.** section, add the 12-digit tracking number from the top of the airbill.
    - In the **Page of Pages** section, add 1 of 1.
    - In the lower right corner of the form, print your name and title, your city, state, and the shipment date. Then add your signature.

5. For your records, keep one copy of the shipper's declaration and the sender's copy of the airbill. Insert the completed shipper's declaration and the airbill into an adhesive FedEx envelope, then attach the envelope to the box, most likely on the bottom. Do not cover any of the hazard markings or labels on the box.
6. Attach a **From** label (your dealership address) and a **To** label (TK Holdings, Inc., as listed on the airbill) to the outside of the box. Do not cover any of the hazard markings or labels on the box.
7. Before shipment, make sure steps 1 thru 6 have been completed. Incomplete or missing information may cause the box to be returned to you.

NOTE: You (the shipper) are responsible for proper packing and document completion before shipping this box. The DOT (U.S. Department of Transportation) *will* impose substantial fines and/or penalties on the shipper (you) if the packaging, labeling, or documentation is not properly prepared. The person signing the document must be trained, and the training records must be on file at your place of business. Retain all documents for at least 2 years.

### Example of Client Letter

## Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag Inflator

Dear 3.2TL 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 Motor Co., Ltd., has decided that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2002 model year 3.2TL 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 an injury or fatality to vehicle occupants.

### What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will replace the driver's airbag inflator module. This work will be done *free of charge*. Please 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 Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Acura Client Services  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7E  
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 submit a complaint to:

Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

You can also call the toll-free Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236 (TTY 800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

**What to do if you feel this notice is in error.**

Our records show that you are the current owner of a 2002 3.2TL involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid Information Change Card. We will then update our records.

**Lessor information.**

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

**If you have questions.**

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with locating an Acura dealer, please call Acura Client Services at 800-382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Acura Automobile Division**

July 24, 2009

Dear Service Manager:

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. is announcing a safety recall campaign for 131 2002 3.2TLs. A manufacturing error can produce over-pressurization of the driver's airbag inflator during airbag deployment. 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 an injury or fatality to vehicle occupants.

**Repair Strategy**

The repair is to install a driver's airbag inflator kit, and return the undeployed original inflator to its supplier. For repair, VIN, warranty, and inflator packing/shipping information, refer to Service Bulletin 09-033, *Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag Inflator Is Over-Pressurized*.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your used vehicle inventory. As a matter of federal law, these vehicles must be repaired before they are sold. Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes an injury or damage because of the recalled item, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify American Honda for any resulting claims.

To see if a vehicle is affected by this campaign, do a VIN status inquiry. In addition, check for a punch mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means this campaign has already been completed.

**Client Notification**

Affected vehicle owners will be mailed a notification of this campaign the week of August 3, 2009. An example of the client notification is at the end of S/B 09-033.

**Parts Information**

Because of the limited number of parts in inventory, driver's airbag inflator kits are available only through the controlled parts ordering system.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Acura Automobile Division**