



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 09-004
Date Opened: 11/02/2009
Principal Investigator: JENNIFER TIMIAN
Subject: RUPTURING DRIVER'S AIR BAG INFLATORS

Manufacturer : HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)
Products: CERTAIN MY 2001-2002 HONDA CIVIC, ACCORD, AND ACURA TL
Population: 400000

Problem Description: DUE TO INTERNAL PRESSURE, THE DRIVER'S AIR BAG INFLATOR IN THE AFFECTED VEHICLES MAY RUPTURE AND CAUSE METAL FRAGMENTS TO PASS THROUGH THE AIR BAG, WHICH COULD STRIKE AND THEN INJURE OR KILL AN OCCUPANT.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action : OPEN RQ

Engineer: Jennifer Timian

Date: 11/02/2009

Div. Chief: George Person

Date: 11/02/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/02/2009

Summary: IN A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 11, 2008, HONDA REPORTED THAT IT HAD DECIDED (ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008) THAT CERTAIN 2001 MODEL YEAR HONDA ACCORD AND CIVIC VEHICLES WERE DEFECTIVE BECAUSE THE DRIVER'S AIR BAG INFLATOR IN THOSE VEHICLES COULD PRODUCE EXCESSIVE INTERNAL PRESSURE. IN A DEPLOYMENT, THE INFLATOR COULD RUPTURE AND METAL FRAGMENTS COULD PASS THROUGH THE AIR BAG'S CUSHION, STRIKING AND POTENTIALLY INJURING OR KILLING OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE. THIS RECALL WAS ASSIGNED THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 08V-593.

RQ 09-004 Opening Resume (cont.)

IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 30, 2009, HONDA REPORTED THAT IT HAD DECIDED (ON JUNE 23, 2009) THAT ADDITIONAL MY 2001 HONDA AND CIVIC VEHICLES CONTAINED THE SAME DEFECT AND SHOULD BE RECALLED. THIS RECALL WAS ASSIGNED THE IDENTIFICATION 09V-259. ONE MONTH LATER, HONDA DECIDED THAT MORE VEHICLES CONTAINED THE DEFECT AND EXPANDED THE CAMPAIGN TO INCLUDE CERTAIN MY 2002 HONDA ACCORD AND ACURA 3.2TL VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES WERE ADDED TO RECALL 09V-259.

RMD REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM HONDA CONCERNING THE DETERMINATION OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION FOR BOTH CAMPAIGNS, AS WELL AS INFORMATION CONCERNING COMPLAINTS, WARRANTY CLAIMS, AND INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE VEHICLES IN EACH CAMPAIGN. ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2009, HONDA PROVIDED ITS RESPONSE, INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION THAT THE DEFECT WAS SUSPECTED TO HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE HANDLING OF THE AIR BAG PROPELLANT, AND THEN DUE TO THE PRODUCTION OF THAT PROPELLANT. HONDA EXPLAINED THAT TAKATA, INC. WAS THE SUPPLIER OF THE AIR BAGS, INCLUDING THE INFLATORS AND PROPELLANT.

RMD REQUIRES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HONDA AND TAKATA TO MORE FULLY EVALUATE THE SCOPE AND TIMELINESS OF BOTH RECALLS. ACCORDINGLY, THIS RQ IS OPENED.