

December 23, 2009

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

10V-001
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

On December 18, 2009, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2006-2007 model year Honda Ridgeline vehicles, and is furnishing 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 Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (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 Ridgeline	Certain 2006 model year	2HJYK16536H500465 - 2HJYK16576H576402 Jan. 17, 2005 – June 5, 2006
		2HJYK16286H500001 - 2HJYK16526H576372 June 11, 2004 – June 7, 2006
Honda Ridgeline	Certain 2007 model year	2HJYK16357H500032 – 2HJYK16327H552704 May 30, 2006 - June 6, 2007

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

The recall population was based on manufacturing records and market occurrence of related symptoms. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: approx. 76,000

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

A wiring harness connector for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) blower motor located under the passenger's side of the instrument panel may be accessible to kicking by the front seat passenger's feet. If this occurs, the connector terminal may overheat, which can result in either the wire insulation melting or the wiring connector melting. If the wiring connector melts, the HVAC blower motor will become inoperable with no further symptoms. If the wiring insulation melts and the exposed wires contact each other it will result in a short circuit. The short circuit may cause the HVAC blower motor fuse to become blown, a failure of the PMOS (controlling circuit) or ignition of the area adjacent to the wires. In the event of a blown fuse, the HVAC blower motor will stop working. A failure of the PMOS controller will cause the HVAC blower motor to operate only on the high speed fan setting. If the short circuit results in ignition, the most likely outcome is self extinguishing, though one fire has been attributed to this cause.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

February 18, 2009	NHTSA opens PE09-008 to investigate allegations of instrument panel fires in model year 2006 Ridgeline vehicles based on 3 VOQs
April 13, 2009	AHM submits reply to investigation
June 16, 2009	NHTSA closes PE09-008
July 2009	AHM received Techline report and forwarded it to Honda R&D Americas Ohio (HRA-O)
August 2009	HCM initiated an investigation
September 2009	HCM, HRA-O and Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM) conduct healthy vehicle inspection
December 17, 2009	HCM completes investigation and HMC decides to conduct a recall

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 automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the vehicle. If the wiring connector is damaged it will be replaced. All vehicles will have a protective cover installed, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: TBD

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: TBD

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: TBD

The estimated date of completion of the notification: TBD

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter 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.

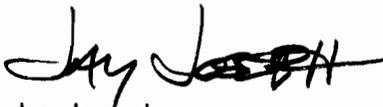
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis