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10V-041
(5 pages)

HONDA

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

February 9, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

On November 4, 2008, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the driver airbag of certain 2001 model year Honda Accord and Civic automobiles, and we furnished notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

On June 23, 2009, HMC determined that the VIN range for recall 08V-593 should be expanded for 2001 model year Accord and Civic automobiles and we furnished notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on June 30, 2009 in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports. On July 30, 2009 we provided similar information for certain 2002-2003 Acura 3.2TL vehicles.

On February 2, 2010 HMC decided to include additional vehicles in this recall, based on our ongoing review of this matter. As we had shared with your office previously, certain vehicles included in the original recall were outside of the suspect range, but were recalled to verify the performance of the driver's airbag inflators. The airbag inflators that we received were evaluated and were within design specifications or, if deployed, performed as designed. However, our review of manufacturing records for all of the airbag inflators has led us to focus on one process involved in the manufacture of the inflator propellant.

There were two manufacturing processes used in preparing the inflator propellant. One process automatically verified all propellant as being within specification; however, the other process does not provide us with the same confidence. Despite testing that showed proper performance of inflators that were collected from this range, we have decided that we cannot entirely rule out the possibility that parts in this expanded population could be out of specification and thus potentially perform improperly. Due to this conclusion, HMC has decided to expand the scope of this recall.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Honda Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama (HMA)
Honda de Mexico (HDM)
Honda of the UK Manufacturing Ltd. (HUM)

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:

Make/Model	Description	VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture
See attached list		

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:
The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: Approximately 379,000

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:
In certain 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 injury or fatality to vehicle occupants.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Nov. 11, 2008	AHM submitted 573 report to NHTSA (08V-593). HAM continued investigation of returned inflators from the recall.
June 30, 2009	AHM submitted 573 report to NHTSA (09V-259). HAM continued investigation of returned inflators from the recall.
February 2, 2010	HAM completed the investigation and HMC decided to expand this recall to include vehicles identified on the attached list because of the inability to rely on the method of sampling production in use at that time to absolutely assure that the inflators in the recall population meet all production criteria.

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 replace the airbag inflator free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	February 9, 2010
The date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	February 12, 2010
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	February 25, 2010
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 is included.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:
A draft of the owner notification letter was submitted and approved by your office.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:
Q96 Honda
R13 Acura

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis

Identification of potentially affected vehicles

Honda Accord 4-door	Certain 2001 model year	1HGCG165X1A036051 - 1HGCG16501A087302 1/15/2001 - 8/1/2001
		1HGCG56661A089569 - 1HGCG56481A149995 3/19/2001 - 8/1/2001
		1HGCG66531A077974 - 1HGCG66581A149994 2/26/2001 - 7/31/2001
		1HGCF86681A070199 - 1HGCF866X1A149454 2/6/2001 - 7/27/2001
		JHMCF86441C000750 - JHMCF86471C000824 06/11/2001 - 07/03/2001
		JHMCG56401C032199 - JHMCG56631C033283 05/28/2001 - 07/05/2001
		JHMCG66051C026336 - JHMCG66061C027821 05/16/2001 - 07/07/2001
	Certain 2002 model year	3HGCG56452G700001 - 3HGCG56402G706126 8/17/2001 - 6/7/2002
		3HGCG66572G700001 - 3HGCG66502G705881 8/13/2001 - 6/3/2002
		1HGCG16412A000001 - 1HGCG165X2A060304 7/31/2001 - 4/8/2002
		1HGCG567X2A000001 - 1HGCG56402A156781 5/10/2001 - 6/26/2002
		1HGCG66802A000314 - 1HGCG668X2A115079 7/31/2001 - 4/5/2002
		1HGCF86662A000122 - 1HGCF86602A116108 7/31/2001 - 4/8/2002
		JHMCF85432C000001 - JHMCF86462C000492 07/26/2001 - 03/15/2002
		JHMCG56442C000003 - JHMCG56612C031498 07/04/2001 - 02/27/2002
		JHMCG66522C000001 - JHMCG66852C025436 7/4/2001 - 2/20/2002

Honda Accord 2-door	Certain 2001 model year	1HGCG22501A014572 - 1HGCG22491A036691 1/15/2001 - 8/14/2001
		1HGCG32701A018631 - 1HGCG32781A034267 3/21/2001 - 8/14/2001
	Certain 2002 model year	1HGCG22582A000145 - 1HGCG22502A032863 8/15/2001 - 6/28/2002
		1HGCG32032A000001 - 1HGCG32132A030382 6/12/2001 - 6/28/2002

Honda Civic 4-door	Certain 2001 model year	2HGES16571H569239 - 2HGES16561H576814 3/21/2001 - 4/16/2001
		2HGES26721H542523 - 2HGES25791H576718 1/15/2001 - 4/16/2001
		1HGES16581L049070 - 1HGES16501L077042 3/22/2001 - 8/21/2001

Honda Civic 4-door	Certain 2001 model year (con't)	1HGES26781L049206 - 1HGES26751L077481 3/23/2001 - 8/23/2001
		1HGEN26431L000511 - 1HGEN26451L000803 4/12/2001 - 7/26/2001
		JHMES16571S010618 - JHMES16581S012572 06/01/2001 - 07/18/2001
		JHMES26731S005228 - JHMES26711S006300 06/01/2001 - 07/13/2001
	Certain 2002 model year	1HGES15572L000008 - 1HGES15562L057851 8/14/2001 - 5/22/2002
		1HGES25792L000244 - 1HGES26782L045822 8/28/2001 - 4/2/2002
		1HGEN265X2L000001 - 1HGEN26462L000293 6/21/2001 - 12/5/2001
		JHMES165X2S000067 - JHMES16512S006162 08/06/2001 - 03/07/2002
		JHMES26792S000003 - JHMES26742S003926 08/28/2001 - 02/08/2002
	Certain 2003 model year	JHMES95633S000048 03/05/2002

Honda Civic 2-door	Certain 2001 model year	1HGEM21931L067826 - 1HGEM22561L124788 3/19/2001 - 9/10/2001
	Certain 2002 model year	1HGEM21502L000213 - 1HGEM219X2L093101 9/10/2001 - 7/16/2002

Honda CR-V	Certain 2002 model year	SHSRD684X2U000137 - SHSRD68452U000143 10/4/2002 - 10/4/2002
		SHSRD788X2U000101 - SHSRD78802U000303 2/19/2002 - 4/11/2002
		JHLRD68452C000005 - JHLRD68452C020769 07/17/2001 - 05/31/2002
		JHLRD78412C000007 - JHLRD78482C089378 05/11/2001 - 08/09/2002

Honda Odyssey	Certain 2002 model year	5FNRL18672B000062 - 5FNRL18782B022371 10/9/2001 - 5/10/2002
		2HKRL18002H500089 - 2HKRL18792H584264 7/31/2001 - 5/14/2002

Honda Pilot	Certain 2003 model year	2HKYF185X3H509382 6/12/2002

Acura 3.2TL	Certain 2002 model year	19UUA56822A005756 - 19UUA56772A061652 3/19/2001 - 1/31/2002
	Certain 2003 model year	19UUA56623A000069 - 19UUA56623A026672 2/4/2002 - 6/12/2002

Acura 3.2CL	Certain 2003 model year	19UYA41703A006707 6/12/2002