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By delia.lopez at 8:40 am, Oct 22, 2010

**HONDA**

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

October 21, 2010

10V-504  
(4 Pages)

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

**Re: Recall Notification  
2005-07 Model Year Acura RL; 2005-07 Honda Odyssey  
Brake Master Cylinder**

Dear Mr. Smith:

On October 21, 2010, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the brake master cylinder of certain 2005-07 model year Acura RL and Honda Odyssey 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)  
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama (HMA)

**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>
Acura RL	Certain 2005 model year	JH4KB165X5C000001 - JH4KB16515C021598 Feb. 23, 2004 to June 23, 2005
Acura RL	Certain 2006 model year	JH4KB16506C000002 - JH4KB16546C012556 May 18, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2006
Acura RL	Certain 2007 model year	JH4KB16597C000002 - JH4KB16667C003061 July 13, 2006 to Feb. 6, 2007
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2005 model year	5FNRL38875B000001 - 5FNRL386X5B136928 Feb. 18, 2004 to Aug. 8, 2005 5FNRL38465B400001 - 5FNRL38615B425597 Sept. 30, 2004 - Aug. 5, 2005

Honda Odyssey	Certain 2006 model year	5FNRL38856B000001 – 5FNRL38646B129961 Aug. 6, 2005 to Aug. 21, 2006 5FNRL38626B400001 - 5FNRL38436B463199 Aug. 3, 2005 to Aug. 21, 2006
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2007 model year	5FNRL38837B000001 – 5FNRL386X7B047380 Feb. 21, 2006 to Feb. 5, 2007 5FNRL38427B400001 - 5FNRL386X7B432096 Feb. 23, 2006 to Feb. 5, 2007

**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)(2)(iv)

**Identification of affected component:**

Component:	Brake Master Cylinder
Country of Origin:	Japan
Manufacturer:	Advics Co., Ltd.
Address:	2-1, Showa-cho, Kariya, Aichi 448-8688 JAPAN
Telephone No.:	+81-566-63-8000

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 471,820

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

A seal in the brake master cylinder may be susceptible to damage which can result in a brake fluid leak if certain conditions exist.

These conditions require that the Honda Genuine brake fluid installed at the factory and specified for periodic maintenance in the vehicle owner's manual be replaced with a different brake fluid with a lower polymer content. The polymer content affects the amount of lubrication the brake fluid provides to brake system components that are exposed to brake fluid. If the brake fluid is replaced with a low polymer brake fluid, and the brake fluid is subsequently subjected to a manual brake fluid bleeding procedure, as opposed to an automated brake bleed procedure, it is possible for the seal at the end of the brake master cylinder primary circuit to become twisted within its retention groove.

If this seal becomes twisted, it can result in a leak of a small amount of brake fluid each time the brake pedal is applied. Should a leak occur, after some time the driver will be alerted by the illumination of the low brake fluid indicator light on the meter panel before any effect on braking performance results. If the driver continues to drive the vehicle without refilling the brake fluid reservoir, the vehicle will eventually exhibit a soft or spongy brake pedal feel, requiring more stroke to achieve equivalent braking force. Eventually, if this continues un-remedied, braking performance will be affected, and will finally result in a low brake pedal and a loss of one braking circuit.

Although we have not yet determined that this condition poses an unreasonable risk to vehicle safety, we acknowledge that this condition cannot be prevented and therefore have decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Sept. 16, 2010	HMC received information from the supplier that another OEM who uses the same part is investigating, HMC initiated an investigation.
Oct. 21, 2010	HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists.

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 or Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will replace the brake master cylinder seal in all vehicles, free of charge. If inspection of the vehicle reveals that the seal in question has leaked, the brake booster unit will also be replaced.

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