

# HONDA

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NHTSA-215  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748  
Phone (310) 783-2000

2004 APR 15 P 2:24

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

April 13, 2004

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Safety Assurance  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

04V-176  
(4 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On April 5, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a safety-related problem exists in the transmissions of certain Honda and Acura vehicles listed below. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

The following report contains preliminary information. The remaining information will be provided to NHTSA as soon as it has been gathered.

573.6(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Honda of Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)  
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC (HMA)

**Manufacturer's Agent:** William R. Willen  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2002 model year Certain 2003 model year Certain 2004 model year	To be submitted in the final Part 573.
Honda Pilot	Certain 2003 model year Certain 2004 model year	

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Acura MDX	Certain 2001 model year Certain 2002 model year	To be submitted in the final Part 573.

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

The affected vehicles are based on market failures and manufacturing records. Transmissions manufactured after the affected ranges received internal changes and do not require modification.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:**                      Approx. 600,000

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:**              Less than 0.3%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Summary**

Certain operating conditions can result in heat build-up between the countershaft and secondary shaft second gears in the automatic transmission, eventually leading to gear tooth chipping or, in very rare cases, gear breakage can occur. Gear failure could result in transmission lock-up.

**Detail**

Certain operating conditions can result in heat build-up between the countershaft and secondary shaft second gears in the automatic transmission. Lacking sufficient oil flow to dissipate heat, prolonged operation under these conditions can eventually result in decreased material strength. In higher mileage vehicles, this condition can result in gear tooth chipping or, in very rare cases, gear breakage can occur.

In most cases, transmission noise will indicate a problem, however it is possible for the transmission to become locked without warning. A locked transmission could result in a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

To be submitted in the final Part 573.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda or Acura dealer.

*Vehicles with 15,000 miles or less:*

The dealer will update the transmission with a simple revision to the oil cooler return line to increase lubrication to second gear.

*Vehicles with more than 15,000 miles:*

The dealer will inspect the transmission to identify gears that have already experienced discoloration due to overheating. If discoloration exists, the transmission will be replaced. If discoloration is not present, the dealer will perform the revision to the oil cooler return line.

The inspection and repairs will be performed free of charge for all affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

<b>Estimated date to begin mailing notifications to owners:</b>	May 12, 2004
<b>Estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:</b>	Apr. 13, 2004
<b>Estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:</b>	Apr. 23, 2004
<b>Estimated date of completion of the notification of owners:</b>	September 2004

573.6(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin 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.

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein  
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573.8(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:**

P30 for Pilot and Odyssey; P31 for MDX.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke