

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2748
Phone (810) 783-2000

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

June 2, 2004

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

04V-256
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On May 25, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, 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 of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)

Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
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 Accord V6 sedan LX model	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCG164*YA000010 to 1HGCG164*YA101229 May 11, 1999 to August 18, 2000
Honda Accord V6 coupe LX model	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCG224*YA000015 to 1HGCG224*YA043733 July 15, 1999 to August 21, 2000
	Certain 2001 model year	1HGCG224*1A000009 to 1HGCG224*1A007174 May 2, 2000 to October 31, 2000

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:
The affected VIN range reflects vehicles produced prior to production line countermeasures being applied.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 19,572

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

The dimmer control for the instrument panel lights may fail, and at night, the driver may not be able to see the instrument panel gauges and displays.

Detail

A transistor in the multiplex unit controls the instrument panel brightness/dimming function. Over time, the transistor may fail due to heat buildup at any dimmer control setting; however, lower brightness settings generate higher temperatures and accelerate transistor failure. If the transistor fails, the lights that illuminate the instrument panel could become inoperative, and at night, the driver may not be able to see the gauges and displays. The gauges would continue to operate, and all critical system indicator lights (e.g., SRS, seat belt reminder, turn signals and charging system) would function normally. No accidents or injuries have been reported.

573.6(c)(8)

Chronology:

Sept. 29, 2003	AHM reported about increasing multiplex claims for Accord LX V6 models to HMC. HMC initiated an investigation.
October 2003 – May 2004	HMC reviewed data and specifications for all multiplex suppliers and vehicle applications to determine all affected models in the world market.
May 25, 2004	HMC ended 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 notified by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will replace the multiplex unit, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notice to dealers: Jun. 4, 2004
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: Jun. 24, 2004
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Jul. 7, 2004
The estimated date of completion of the notification: Jul. 30, 2004

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 will be sent to your office for review as soon as possible.

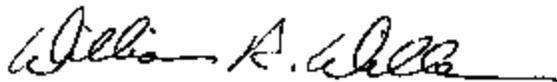
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

P38.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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