

**HONDA**

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

June 21, 2004

Mr. George Person, Chief  
Recall Analysis Division  
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 04V-256

Dear Mr. Person:

In accordance with our campaign to correct a safety defect related to the instrument panel multiplex in certain 2000-2001 model year Honda Accord automobiles, we are submitting a copy of the dealer bulletin, which also includes the text of the customer letter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Enclosure

RECEIVED  
JUL -9 A 8:30  
OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

Applies To: **See VEHICLES AFFECTED****June 22, 2004****Safety Recall: Accord LX V6 Instrument Panel Lighting****BACKGROUND**

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.

**VEHICLES AFFECTED**

**2000 Accord LX V6 2-Door:**  
From VIN 1HGCG224.YA000001 thru  
1HGCG224.YA043733

**2000 Accord LX V6 4-Door:**  
From VIN 1HGCG184.YA000001 thru  
1HGCG184.YA101229

**2001 Accord LX V6 2-Door:**  
From VIN 1HGCG224.1A000001 thru  
1HGCG224.1A007174

**CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION**

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall campaign. An example of the customer letter is at the end of this service bulletin.

Not all vehicles within the VIN ranges are affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify its eligibility by checking at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an iN VIN status inquiry.

Some vehicles affected by this recall may be in your used car inventory. According to federal law, these vehicles cannot be sold or leased until they are repaired. To see if a vehicle is affected by this recall, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION**

Replace the driver's side multiplex control unit.

**PARTS INFORMATION**

**Multiplex Control Unit (4-door models):**  
P/N 38800-S84-A06, H/C 8254676

**Multiplex Control Unit (2-door models):**  
P/N 38800-S82-A03, H/C 6218911

**WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION**

Operation Number: 746104

Flat Rate Time: 0.4 hour

Failed Part: P/N 38800-S84-A06  
H/C 6218929

Defect Code: 742

Symptom Code: P36

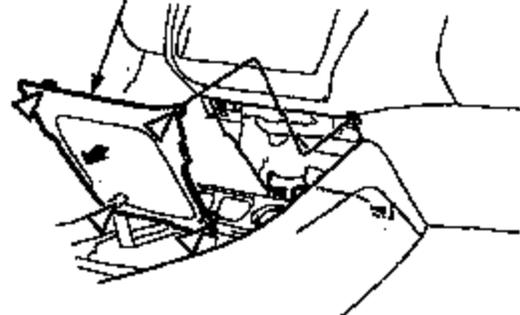
Template ID: 04-034A (4-door models)  
04-034B (2-door models)

Skill Level: Repair Technician

**REPAIR PROCEDURE**

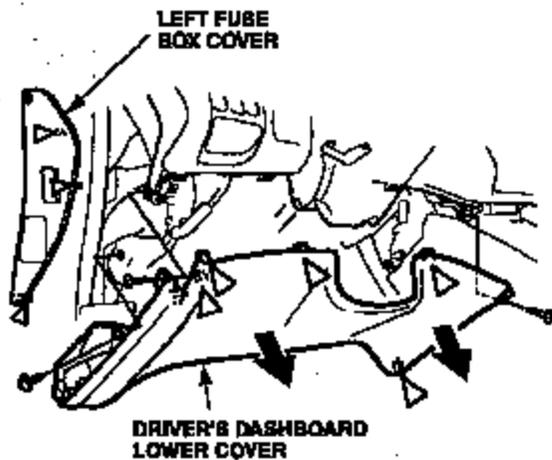
1. Make sure you have the anti-theft code for the audio system. Write down the customer's radio station presets.
2. Disconnect the negative cable from the battery.
3. Remove the dashboard center lower cover.

DASHBOARD  
CENTER  
LOWER COVER

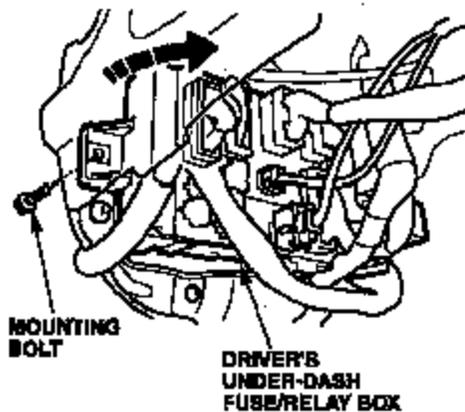


4. Remove the driver's side fuse box cover.

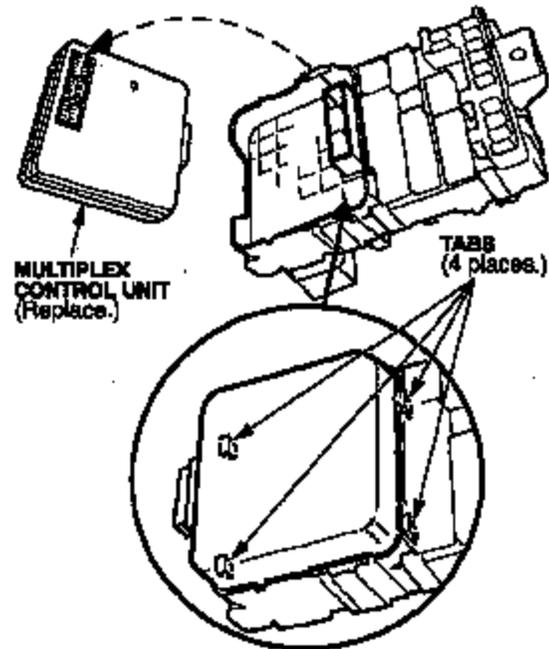
- Remove the three mounting screws, then remove the driver's dashboard lower cover.



- Remove the door sill molding and the kick panel.
- Remove the fuse box mounting bolt, then pull the fuse box away from the body.



- Remove the driver's multiplex control unit.



- Install the new multiplex control unit on the back of the fuse box. Reinstall the fuse box.
- Reinstall all removed parts.
- Reconnect the negative cable to the battery.
- Do the idle learn procedure:
  - Make sure all electrical items (A/C, audio unit, defogger, lights, etc.) are off.
  - Start the engine, and let it warm up to its normal operating temperature (the cooling fans cycle twice).
  - Let the engine idle (throttle fully closed and all electrical items off) for 10 minutes.
- Enter the anti-theft code(s). Enter the customer's radio station presets. Set the clock.
- Center-punch a completion mark above the 12th character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

1HGCGXXXXXXXXXXXX

July 2004

## Safety Recall: Accord LX V6 Instrument Panel Lighting

Dear Accord Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

### What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd., has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000-2001 model year Accord LX V6 vehicles. Over time, the dimmer control for the instrument panel could fail due to heat buildup. If this happens, the instrument panel lights may fail and, at night, you may not be able to see the instrument panel gauges, such as the speedometer. This condition can result in driver distraction or the vehicle being driven at an illegal speed. All critical system indicator lights (for example, SRS, seat belt reminder, turn signals, and charging system) are unaffected and would continue to function.

### What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will replace a multiplex control unit for the instrument panel lights. This repair will be done *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your vehicle for half a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

### Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Honda Consumer Affairs Dept.  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A  
1819 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

If you believe American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20580

Or call the toll-free Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4238.

### What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2000-01 Accord LX involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

If you paid to have a defective multiplex control unit replaced sometime in the past, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the attached *Instructions for Reimbursement* for eligibility requirements and the reimbursement procedure.

### Lessor Information.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call Honda Automobile Customer Service at (800) 899-1009, and select option #2.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Honda Automobile Division