

March 22, 2012

12V-124  
 (4 Pages)

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
 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**  
**2006 Model Year Honda CR-V**  
**Front lower arm weld failure**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On March 16, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the passenger-side front lower arm of certain 2006 model year CR-V automobiles, 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)

**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>
Honda CR-V	Certain 2006 model year	JHLRD68876C - JHLRD688X6C May 26, 2006 to June 1, 2006
		JHLRD77816C - JHLRD78806C May 26, 2006 to June 1, 2006

**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: Front Lower Arm  
Country of Origin: Japan  
Manufacturer: Yorozu Tochigi Corporation  
Contact Name: Kanehiko Nakazono  
Quality Assurance Department  
General Manager  
Address: 443 Yokokura Shinden, Oyama, Tochigi 323-0819 Japan  
Telephone No.: +81-285-42-9833

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 1,316

573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

In the process of welding the right front (passenger's side) lower suspension arm, the welding equipment was not set properly, resulting in insufficient weld strength attaching the sub-frame bushing collar to the passenger-side front lower arm. This can cause the collar to separate from the arm due to vibration while driving, resulting in a loss of steering and increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Sep. 9, 2011	Received initial report citing problem of 2 Sayama-built vehicles both manufactured on May 29, 2006.
Oct. 3, 2011	Upon inspection, both returned parts showed a fracture at the identical welding location at the rear collar due to poor welding on May 24, 2006.
Oct. 12, 2011	Supplier confirmed welding head zero-point misalignment which occurred on May 25, 2006. HMC requested supplier to conduct investigation on fracture analysis of welded area.
Oct. 25, 2011	HMC received a report of the same problem in China from the same lower arm production lot.
Oct. 27, 2011	Supplier fracture analysis report reveals misaligned welding head. HMC requested supplier to further investigate the cause of misalignment.

Dec. 19, 2011	AHM Tech Line reports similar problem in Nov/Dec 2011 (1 case each month). Based on production date, both could be the same failure.
Dec. 27, 2011	AHM Tech Line received returned parts and study revealed that affected units are from May 25, 2006 production.
Jan. 11, 2012	Supplier states process failure reported on May 24, 2006. Failed parts shipped until CM is implemented the next day. Affected production range is May 24, 2006 to May 25, 2006.
Jan. 18, 2012	Supplier concludes investigation and confirms that 1,855 units were shipped during May 26, 2006 to May 31, 2006 for manufacturing in Sayama factory (HMC) and China factory.  HMC initiates investigation.
Feb. 7, 2012	HMC confirms that 8 countries and 1,522 parts are affected.
March 16, 2012	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 automobile dealer. The dealer will confirm the production lot stamp on the passenger-side front lower arm and replace the lower arm of affected lots, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:** March 23, 2012

**The estimated date to provide preliminary service bulletin to dealers:**

March 23, 2012

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** April 17, 2012

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** April 24, 2012

573.6(c)(9)

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

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letter and other dealer communication 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:**

S33

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Joseph", is written over the printed name.

Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis