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By Recall Management Division at 7:12 am, Sep 04, 2012

HONDA

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

12V-136

(5 pages) - Amended
(Expansion)

August 31, 2012

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
2002-2003 Honda Civic
2004-2005 Honda Pilot
Low beam headlight**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On August 24, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the low beam headlight circuits of certain 2002-03 model year Honda Civic and 2004-05 model year Honda Pilot 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 of Canada Mfg. (HCM)
Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Honda of the UK Manufacturing Ltd. (HUM)
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>
See Attached List		

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

The recall population was determined based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem. The investigation (EA11-012) included 2003-08 Element vehicles. However, due to a very low failure rate the Element is not included in the recall. A separate document with a technical evaluation of the Element will be provided to NHTSA ODI.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 820,789

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The combination switch that controls the headlights and turn signals is connected to the main vehicle wiring harness through a sub-harness that utilizes wiring harness connectors at each end. Operation of the turn signal switch lever at high speed and/or with heavy force can cause movement between the combination switch body and the sub-harness wiring connector. This movement can cause the tin plating that covers the male terminal of the low beam headlight circuit to wear, eventually exposing the copper base material. Once the copper has been exposed, continued movement between the male and female terminals can produce copper oxide, which increases electrical resistance. In some cases the increased electrical resistance may cause the terminal ends to melt within the wiring harness connector. If this occurs, the low beam headlights can become inoperative, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

April 29, 2011	AHM received a Preliminary Evaluation letter from NHTSA (PE11-017)
May 11, 2011	HMC issued QIC for U.S. CR-V
July 12, 2011	AHM provided partial response to PE11-017
July 19, 2011	AHM provided final response to PE11-017
Sept. 8, 2011	AHM provided updated response to PE11-017
Sept. 12, 2011	AHM received letter upgrading PE11-017 to EA11-012
Nov. 2, 2011	AHM met with NHTSA to discuss low beam headlight investigation

Dec. 6, 2011	HMC found insufficient wiring harness margin for movement in CR-V and Pilot wiring harnesses
Jan. 10, 2012	HMC discovered excessive wiring harness terminal motion in CR-V and Pilot caused by insufficient wiring harness margin for movement
March 22, 2012	HMC determined that a safety-related defect existed in 2002-2004 CR-V vehicles and 2003 Pilot vehicles. No technical basis for occurrences in 2002-03 Civic and 2004-05 Pilot had been determined at that time.
March 28, 2012	AHM met with NHTSA to discuss the status of 2002-03 Civic and 2004-05 Pilot low beam headlight failures and propose an investigation plan to determine the root cause of failures in these vehicles.
April-June, 2012	HMC conducted the investigation of 2002-03 Civic and 2004-05 Pilot vehicles.
June 28, 2012	AHM reported the results of our investigation to NHTSA.
July-August, 2012	AHM and NHTSA continued to discuss the results of the Honda investigation relative to time and mileage of failures observed in the Honda investigation.
August 24, 2012	HMC determined that a safety-related defect existed in 2002-03 Civic and 2004-05 Pilot low beam headlight switches.

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 inspect the low beam terminal; if the terminal is melted, the lighting switch will be replaced and the low beam terminal harness will be repaired; if the terminal is not melted, the low beam terminal harness will be repaired, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: 8/31/2012

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: 8/31/2012

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: 9/24/2012

The estimated date of completion of the notification: 10/5/2012

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:

S51

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.


Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis

Identification of Potentially Affected Vehicles

Model	Model Year	# of doors	VIN Range (from-to)		Dates of Manufacture (begin-end)	
Honda Civic	Certain 2002 model year	2-door	1HGEM21522L	1HGEM22942L	12/05/01	09/10/02
		3-door	SHHEP335X2U	SHHEP33532U	01/02/02	08/19/02
		4-door	1HGEN26572L	1HGEN26502L	12/05/01	07/18/02
			1HGES16682L	1HGES16532L	12/04/01	09/03/02
			1HGES267X2L	1HGES25832L	12/05/01	09/03/02
			JHMES16512S	JHMES16582S	11/05/01	04/05/02
			JHMES26832S	JHMES26702S	11/06/01	04/10/02
			2HGES16572H	2HGES16542H	12/04/01	09/04/02
			2HGES26742H	2HGES26762H	12/04/01	09/04/02
	Certain 2003 model year	2-door	1HGEM22553L	1HGEM22993L	08/29/02	09/11/03
		3-door	SHHEP33603U	SHHEP33573U	05/22/02	08/28/03
		4-door	1HGEN26513L	1HGEN26583L	01/09/03	08/08/03
			1HGES15533L	1HGES16503L	08/22/02	09/05/03
			1HGES26733L	1HGES26803L	09/04/02	09/05/03
			JHMES16563S	JHMES16573S	08/09/02	12/16/02
			JHMES26703S	JHMES26723S	08/09/02	12/16/02
			JHMES95633S	JHMES95673S	03/05/02	08/04/03
			2HGES16553H	2HGES16523H	08/22/02	09/08/03
2HGES25723H	2HGES26713H	08/22/02	09/08/03			

Honda Pilot	Certain 2004 model year		2HKYF18594H	2HKYF18474H	08/08/03	09/07/04
			5FNYP18474B	5FNYP18604B	04/02/04	09/03/04
	Certain 2005 model year		2HKYF18715H	2HKYF18575H	08/24/04	08/29/05
			5FNYP18535B	5FNYP18585B	07/29/04	08/29/05