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By Recall Management Division at 7:54 am, Sep 05, 2012

HONDA

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

August 31, 2012

12V-436
(3 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
2007-2011 Model Year Honda Element
Accessory Trailer Hitch Wiring Harness**

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 Accessory Trailer Hitch Wiring Harness of certain 2007-2011 model year Honda Element 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 Access America (HAA)

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 equipment:

<u>Component Name</u>	<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>
Trailer Hitch Harness Kit	08L91-SCV-100A	November 9, 2010

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 have had this accessory installed.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: Trailer Hitch Harness Kit
Country of Origin: Mexico
Manufacturer: Cequent Performance Products
Contact Name: Daniel Garcia
Address: Cequent c/o Interlink
6500 South 35th Street
Building Y, Suite A
McAllen, TX 78503
Telephone No.: 956-519-5663

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of trailer hitch wiring harnesses sold to dealers: 5,216

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 2%

*Honda estimates that 105 accessory trailer hitch wiring harnesses may have been wired incorrectly.

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The supplier of the accessory wiring harness incorrectly assembled the wires harness' internal coupler for a small portion of the harnesses. The wire that supplies power to the trailer lights was mistakenly switched with the stop lamp wire in the affected population. As a result the turn signals only illuminate when the brake lamps are illuminated. This does not comply with the requirement of FMVSS 108: Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment, and also creates a failure to notify other vehicles of the driver's intent, potentially increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

May 27, 2011	First turn signal failure reported at a dealer. A total of nine (9) turn signal failures were reported to Honda between May 2011 and June 2012.
June 22, 2012	Honda Access America (HAA) received a suspect harness for investigation and confirmed the failure.
June 29, 2012	The supplier confirmed the incorrect assembly and implemented countermeasures into the process.
August 24, 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 potentially affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the trailer harness for the incorrect wire assembly and repair the harness if necessary, 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: 9/20/2012

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:

S53

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:clm