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From American Honda Parts & Service Division, Campaign Administration
Subject Safety Recall: 2001-03 Multi-Model Passenger Airbag Inflator Q&A File

DATE: April 11, 2013

TO: All Honda Sales, Service & Parts Managers and Personnel
FROM: American Honda Parts & Service Division, Campaign Administration

RE: Safety Recall: 2001-03 Multi-Model Passenger Airbag Inflator Q&A File

On April 10, 2013, American Honda notified NHTSA of a **Stop Sale** order and **Safety Recall** for some 2001-03 Civic, 2002-03 CR-V and 2002 Odyssey units. Please refer to the attached Q&A File for additional details related to this Safety Recall.

[Click HERE](#) for the Q&A File in PDF format.

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2001-03 Civic, 2002-03 CR-V & 2002 Odyssey Passenger Airbag Safety Recall Q&A

<p>What is the reason for this recall?</p>	<p>It is possible that the passenger front airbag inflators in affected vehicles may deploy with too much pressure, which may cause the inflator casing to rupture and could result in injury.</p> <p>Defect Description in Part 573 letter sent to NHTSA: In certain vehicles, the passenger's (frontal) airbag inflator could produce excessive internal pressure. If an affected airbag deploys, the increased internal pressure may cause the inflator to rupture. In the event of an inflator rupture, metal fragments could be propelled upward toward the windshield, or downward toward the front passenger's foot well, potentially causing injury to a vehicle occupant.</p>
<p>What can cause the airbags to deploy with too much pressure?</p>	<p>There are two potential problems with the propellant that is used generate the gas that inflates the passenger front airbag.</p> <p>A machine used to compress the propellant may not have been compressing it to the proper density. Additionally, an automatic rejection mechanism on that machine may not have been properly activated to detect the insufficient compression.</p> <p>In addition some propellant may not have been properly stored during inflator assembly production, when the propellant is installed into the inflator housing. If this occurred it would have been possible for the propellant to absorb moisture. The presence of moisture can change the performance of the propellant during airbag deployment.</p> <p>Either of the conditions could affect the performance of the airbag inflator by causing the propellant to produce too much inflation gas too quickly, exceeding the ability of the inflator housing to hold and release the gas as designed. If this occurs, the inflator housing can rupture.</p>
<p>This issue sounds very similar to the driver's-side frontal airbag recall that Honda initiated a few years ago. Are the two issues related?</p>	<p>Although the two issues are similar, they are not directly related. The propellant in these two separate issues were not produced using the same press machine, and the current issue affecting passenger front airbags has an additional secondary cause related to improper storage of the propellant during airbag inflator assembly production.</p>
<p>What will dealers do to repair these cars?</p>	<p>A Honda dealer will replace the passenger front airbag inflator in affected vehicles.</p>
<p>How did Honda discover this issue?</p>	<p>Honda received the first report of this issue after a crash in Puerto Rico in Oct. 2011, but Honda was not able to inspect the deployed airbag from that crash to verify the condition until early 2012. (No injury was reported from this passenger-side airbag deployment.)</p> <p>In July and August 2012, Honda received 4 reports of this condition from auto dismantlers (scrap yards) in Japan after they deployed the airbags during the scraping process. Honda was able to inspect the deployed airbags in those cases, which, over time, helped identify this issue.</p>
<p>When were countermeasures taken to prevent future occurrences?</p>	<p>The affected airbags were last produced approximately 10 years ago, and regular production process improvements over the past decade have eliminated the two potential causes of this issue.</p>
<p>When will customers be notified?</p>	<p>Customers will be notified by mail starting in late May.</p>
<p>What should a customer do if they suspect their vehicle is included in the recall?</p>	<p>When a customer receives mailed notification of the recall for their vehicle, they should schedule an appointment for inspection with their local Honda dealer as soon as possible.</p> <p>Additionally, in late-May, customers will be able to input their VIN on www.recalls.honda.com to determine if their vehicles are affected by this safety recall.</p>
<p>Is there a potential to include other vehicles in the future?</p>	<p>At this time we do not expect to add vehicles to this recall in the future.</p>
<p>Do airbag service parts affect the number of vehicles recalled as they did with previous Honda airbag recalls?</p>	<p>The recall includes affected Service parts.</p>
<p>Why were the OEM airbags replaced in these vehicles?</p>	<p>Some airbags may have been replaced under warranty at Honda dealers, and we are confident of the vehicles in which those parts were installed.</p> <p>However, unrelated to this recall, vehicle collisions can result in normal airbag deployments. When collision repairs are made to vehicles, body shops may purchase Honda Genuine Parts, including airbags, from Honda dealers to complete the repairs. These past sales to third parties without sufficient tracking of the destination vehicle by Honda may provide a challenge for us to identify each suspect service airbag.</p>