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By Recall Management Division at 8:15 am, Jul 08, 2013

13V-297  
(4 pages)

**HONDA**

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

July 5, 2013

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  
2013 Model Year Honda Accord  
Fuel Tank**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On June 27, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the fuel tank of certain 2013 model year Honda Accord automobiles, and is providing 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 of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)

**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 Accord	Certain 2013 model year	1HGCR2F32DA097767 - 1HGCR2F74DA158801 Jan. 15, 2013 – April 2, 2013
		1HGCR3F87DA021737 - 1HGCR3F83DA033366 Jan. 15, 2013 – April 5, 2013
		1HGCT1B86DA009672 - 1HGCT1B72DA010180 Jan. 15, 2013 – Jan. 22, 2013

**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.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

**Identification of affected component:**

Component: Fuel Tank Assembly  
Country of Origin: U.S.A.  
Manufacturer: US Yachio Inc. (USY)  
Contact Name: Hiroyuki Kihara (President)  
Address: 1177 Kellogg Parkway, Marion, Ohio 43302 U.S.A.  
Telephone: (740) 251-2275

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 1,659

573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

The 2013 model year Accord vehicles affected by this recall are Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) II rated. During the blow mold process used to manufacture the fuel tank installed in the affected vehicles, a Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (PZEV) mold core was installed in the fuel tank die but LEV II material was used for the actual tank formation. The use of a PZEV mold core with LEV II material will cause the threaded portion of the fuel tank neck to be out of specification due to the difference in the shrink rate of PZEV material versus LEV II material, as a PZEV mold core only is designed to address the shrink rate of PZEV materials. If the fuel tank neck is out of specification, the fuel pump to fuel tank sealing integrity can be compromised, which may cause the check engine light to illuminate. In addition, there also is a possibility of a fuel smell being present, or possibly a fuel leak during refueling or after a fuel slosh event. A fuel leak increases the risk of fire.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

April 2, 2013	Initial claim found by HAM market information.
April 19, 2013	HAM initiated an investigation.
May 2, 2013	Investigation of fuel tank assembly from initial claim confirmed a gasket leak caused by nut and screw offset.
May 8, 2013	The supplier reports that the wrong mold core was used to blow mold LEVII tanks in January. Increase in March production warranty spike identified.
May 9, 2013	The supplier applies initial countermeasure to modify minimum peak torque.

May 14, 2013	The supplier reports the wrong mold core was also used in March production.
June 7, 2013	The supplier completes 60 pieces blow mold recreation test and measurement to understand outflow. HAM completes investigation.
June 27, 2013	HMC determined that a safety related defect exists and decided to conduct a recall.

As of June 12, 2013, Honda has received 116 warranty claims, although there are no reports of fire related to this issue.

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 replace the fuel tank, nut and O-ring gasket, free of charge. Because the new vehicle warranty on all affected vehicles would have provided a free repair for the problem addressed by this recall, without any payment by the owner, reimbursement for pre-notification repairs will not be offered.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

<b>The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:</b>	July 6, 2013
<b>The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:</b>	July 6, 2013
<b>The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:</b>	August 1, 2013
<b>The estimated date of completion of the notification:</b>	August 8, 2013

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:**

JA9

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis