

August 26, 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 Honda Pilot and Honda Odyssey  
Engine Piston Heat Treatment**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On August 19, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists resulting from the heat treatment process of the engine pistons in certain 2013 model year Honda Pilot and Honda Odyssey vehicles, 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 Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC (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>
Honda Pilot 2WD	Certain 2013 model year	5FNYP3H50DB031839 – 5FNYP3H59DB031919 April 11, 2013
Honda Pilot 4WD	Certain 2013 model year	5FNYP4H78DB060609 - 5FNYP4H7XDB061051 April 11, 2013 - April 12, 2013
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2013 model year	5FNRL5H94DB071630 – 5FNRL5H49DB073555 April 11, 2013 - April 17, 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: Engine Piston  
Country of Origin: U.S.A.  
Manufacturer: Celina Aluminum Precision Technology Inc.  
Contact Name Naoharu Watanabe (President)  
Address: 7059 Staeger Road Celina, Ohio 45822  
Telephone: 419-584-2200

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 270

573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

During manufacturing of the engine piston, it is possible that the heat treatment process was not properly applied, resulting in the piston having a lower hardness level that is outside of the design specification. Pistons exhibiting lower hardness are more susceptible to premature durability related wear. A damaged piston could cause the engine to stall, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

**April 9, 2013** – An associate at the supplier noticed pistons with an unusual color prior to shipment to HMA. The hardness of the pistons was measured and found to be lower than the design specification. The supplier notified HMA of the suspect parts and in-house containment was completed.

**April 29, 2013** – The supplier notified HMA that additional suspect pistons outside of the original suspect range may have been shipped to Honda.

**May-June 2013** – Samples of pistons exhibiting low hardness were shipped to Honda Foundry and Honda R&D for metallurgical analysis and performance testing. During this time HMA worked to determine the VIN range for vehicles that could have been manufactured with the suspect pistons, and also visited the supplier to conduct root cause analysis and confirm permanent preventative measures.

**July 2013** – Engine testing was completed and showed a reduction in the safety factor for lower hardness pistons. The metallurgical testing confirmed that the hardness, tensile strength, and yield strength of suspect parts did not meet design specifications. Additional tests were scheduled for August to gain more understanding of the long term functional impact of pistons exhibiting low hardness.

**August 2013** – The suspect range of potentially affected vehicles was determined and the investigation was reported to HMC. On August 19, 2013 HMC determined that a safety related defect exists and decided to conduct a recall.

As of August 19, 2013 Honda has not received any warranty claims or field reports 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 engine short block, 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)

**The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:** August 27, 2013

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:** August 27, 2013

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** September 16, 2013

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** September 17, 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:**

JB4 – Honda Odyssey

JB5 – Honda Pilot

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Joseph", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb