

December 13, 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  
2014 Model Year Acura RLX  
Rear Suspension Lower Control Arm Bolts**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On December 9, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the rear suspension lower control arm bolts of certain 2014 model year Acura RLX 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)

**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>
Acura RLX	Certain 2014 model year	JH4KC1F55EC000007 - JH4KC1F54EC007434 August 7, 2012 to November 5, 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)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 7,387

573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

During assembly an impact gun was used to fasten the bolts that attach the rear lower control arms to the vehicle sub-frame. The impact gun achieved the required torque specification, however the axial tension of the bolts may be insufficient and may loosen due to vibration specific to vehicle transport by rail car. If the bolts loosen, the driver may have difficulty maintaining steering control over the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Oct. 7, 2013	The first report of a loose rear lower control arm bolt was received by Honda.
Oct. 23, 2013	The second report of a loose rear lower control arm bolt was received by Honda.
Oct. 29, 2013	Honda initiated an investigation into the potential cause of loose rear lower control arm bolts.
Nov. 11, 2013	Honda received the third report (and final report to date) of a loose rear lower control arm bolt.
Nov. 28, 2013	Testing indicated that a loose rear lower control arm bolt will not provide adequate warning to the driver by excessive or alarming noise.
Dec. 5, 2013	HMC determined that a safety defect exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of December 5, 2013, Honda has received 3 warranty claims, no field reports and no injuries 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 an Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will replace all of the rear suspension lower control arm bolts, using a manual torque wrench. 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:** Dec. 13, 2013

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:** Dec. 13, 2013  
**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** Jan. 8, 2014  
**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** Jan. 9, 2014

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:**

JD0

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb