

10115157

NVS-200

[REDACTED]
Santa Ana, California

Tel : [REDACTED] Fax : [REDACTED]

February 28, 2005 70 11: 49

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2005 MAR -9 A 11: 13

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

RE: NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 04V176000 issued on April 13, 2004 and
announced on April 21, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam:

My 2001 Acura MDX was subject to the above-referenced Safety Recall Campaign for Acura MDX transmissions announced on April 21, 2004 as follows:

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001-02 MDXs. Certain operating conditions can result in heat buildup in the transmission second gear set and may lead to gear tooth chipping. In very rare cases, gear breakage can occur. Gear failure could result in transmission lock-up, and a crash could occur without warning.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. For vehicles with less than 15,000 miles, the dealer will install an oil jet kit to provide additional lubrication to the gears. For vehicles with more than 15,000 miles, the dealer will inspect the affected gear for heat discoloration, which indicates possible damage. If heat discoloration exists, the dealer will replace the transmission. If heat discoloration is not found, the dealer will install an oil jet kit. This work will be done *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your vehicle all day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling the inspection and installing the oil jet kit. If transmission replacement is needed, the work will take more than one day.

My vehicle apparently did not exhibit the heat discoloration of the second gear when inspected on August 23, 2004 at the time the odometer read 62,206. So the dealer installed the A/T Oil Jet Kit (P/N 0625-PGH-305) instead of replacing the transmission.

On Friday, February 25, 2005, when my odometer read approximately 69,950 miles (less than 8,000 miles after the Oil Jet Kit was installed) my transmission failed while driving on the freeway. I was in the fast lane and my vehicle began to buck and lurch. While attempting to change lanes into the slow lane, a large truck swerved to miss me, nearly totaling my vehicle. While I was able to drive to the dealership about 8 miles away, I did so traveling on the shoulder of the freeway for most of the way.

The specific component of the transmission which was affected by the safety recall (second gear) was the same component that failed in my vehicle according to the dealership. And because the Oil Jet Kit was installed in my vehicle, I am concerned that the terms of the safety recall, which permits the lesser remedy of the Oil Jet Kit, is not enough to prevent the safety hazard that is created by a failed transmission.

Jason
3/14/05

I would like to know:

- Why the Acura MDX Transmission Safety Recall Campaign permitted the Oil Jet Kit as a remedy in the higher mileage vehicles despite their knowledge that heat buildup in the transmission second gear set weakened these components.
- How it was determined that only those vehicles with visible heat discoloration of second gear would qualify for the transmission replacement.

After haggling over the issue, American Honda Motor Co., Inc. has now authorized that the warranty inspection be repeated. I am waiting to hear whether they will authorize the replacement of the transmission with a remanufactured transmission.

Thank you for your attention herein.

Very Truly Yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

cc: DCH Tustin Acura (via e-mail only: service@tustinacura.com)
9 Auto Center Dr
Tustin, CA 92782-8499