



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

April 30, 2013

[REDACTED]
Aloha, OR [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10508021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2005 Acura TL. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicate that your wife took your MY 2005 Acura TL to the dealer to determine why the vehicle suddenly braked on its own and lost power in city traffic. You allege the vehicle stability assist (VSA) activated and the vehicle responded similar to incidents reported by other Acura and Honda owners in recent news articles. The dealer's diagnosis determined that the brake switch was defective and it was replaced. Your wife left the dealership; however, shortly afterwards she returned because the VSA activated again but the problem could not be duplicated by the technician. Your research revealed that this problem is not an uncommon event in Acura TL vehicles. In addition, you noticed that certain Honda and Acura models have been recalled recently for this problem, but not the MY 2005 Acura TL. You believe your vehicle should be included in the recall because it has the same VSA and braking problem.

The recall you mentioned (NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 13V-092) addresses a problem with the VSA control module causing intermittent, automatic, minor brake application in certain MY 2005 Acura RL, MY 2005 and MY 2006 Acura MDX, and MY 2005 Honda Pilot vehicles. Unfortunately, your vehicle has not been recalled and there are no plans expand the scope of the recall to include MY 2005 Acura TL vehicles at this time.

We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to the VSA system and brake problems in MY 2005 Acura TL vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to indicate a defect trend and thus warrant opening a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. However, the information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. For your information the NHTSA investigation and recall process is on our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. We recommend you continue to work with your dealer and Acura for assistance in resolving your problem.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at our web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" and last name "Reid" clearly distinguishable.

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement