

CL-10 875110-1804

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

May 31, 2016

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Admn.
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC
20590

JUN -9 2016

RE: 2008 Honda Ridgeline RECALL

VIN: 2HJK16478H [REDACTED] - Owner [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

On March 2016 I received a Safety Recall Notice from Honda Auto Div., Torrance, CA. We have been to our Hansel Honda dealer in Petaluma 2 times. March 29 and May 24. To date the dealer has not received the airbags for our 2008 Honda Ridgeline.

This is a real inconvenience for us. Needless to say they cannot tell us when the airbags will arrive (possibly sometime this summer).

As of this date, we are still driving our 2008 Honda Ridgeline which is unsafe. We hope we are not seriously injured or killed in an airbag deployment.

Since this is such a huge safety issue why are the older vehicles not being provided with the airbags immediately? The government (NHTSA) said "the inflators have to be replaced before they reach 6 years old, when the risk of a rupture increases." See the enclosed article. Our vehicle is well over the 6 years (8 years old).

Please look into this matter for us and we would appreciate an early reply.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Sebastopol, CA.

PH [REDACTED]

cc: Honda Auto Div.
Torrance, CA.

cc: Honda Motor, Petaluma. CA.

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration administrator Mark Rosekind speaks in Washington on Wednesday during a news conference to announce the addition of tens of millions of Takata air bag inflators to the largest automotive recall in history.

Industry expected to struggle to replace added 40 million devices

By **TOM KRISHER AND JOAN LOWY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Prodded by the U.S. government, Takata agreed Wednesday to add up to 40 million air bag inflators to an already massive recall, raising questions about the auto industry's ability to produce and distribute the necessary replacement parts.

The recall of inflators that can explode with too much force and hurt people was already the largest in U.S. history at 28.8 million. But Wednesday's announcement could raise that number as high as 69 million, a staggering task that will strain overburdened manufacturers.

The expansion also entered Takata, automakers and the government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a race against time. The government said the inflators have to be replaced before they reach six years old, when the risk of rupture increases.

Even before Wednesday's expansion, it would have taken until the end of 2017 for

enough replacement parts to be manufactured, said Scott Upham, CEO of Valient Market Research in Philadelphia, which tracks air bag sales. He wasn't sure how many more years would be needed.

Other inflator manufacturers such as TRW Automotive, Daicel and Autoliv, which already are making replacement inflators, have agreed to join Takata to produce even more, Upham said.

"They're pitching in to the best of their ability, but even with their help, it's going to be very difficult to really ramp up production to cover this," he said.

Still, the government said, it will take until the end of 2019 to finish the recalls, fast enough to catch the suspect inflators. At least 11 deaths and more than 100 injuries worldwide have been blamed on the Takata parts.

But two years after the big Takata recalls began, automakers have only replaced 28 percent of the recalled inflators due to a lack of replacement parts and difficulty in finding owners and persuading them to get cars repaired.

"We are absolutely not satisfied with the completion rates of the recalls already under way," Rosekind said, cautioning against moving too quickly. Inflators aren't interchangeable and must be engineered to fit a specific vehicle, which takes time, he said.

"We don't want to introduce new safety risks by pushing too fast," Rosekind said.

Yet he said the recalls were urgent and told people to get recalled vehicles fixed as soon as parts are available.

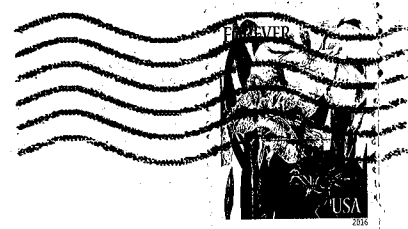
"The science now clearly shows these inflators can become unsafe over time," he said, referring to evidence that chemicals in the devices can degrade, especially when exposed to heat and humidity.

The models involved in the expanded recalls and the number of cars affected were not available Wednesday but will be posted within weeks on NHTSA's website. The expansion adds three manufacturers, Tesla, Jaguar-Land Rover and Fisker, to the 14 that already have vehicles in the recall.



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