



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 14, 2019

[REDACTED]
Palm Bay, FL [REDACTED]

NEF-109 ela
Ref. No. 11131228

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 1996 Honda Accord sedan. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

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 completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

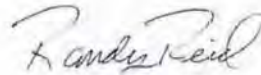
We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. Please accept our sincere sympathy for the injuries you sustained in the crash. We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to air bag non-deployments in MY 1996 Honda Accord vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation or initiate a recall. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. For your information, an explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf

A number of factors, other than crash severity, can affect whether an air bag will deploy in a specific crash, e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the involved vehicles, and the amount of force absorbed by vehicles or objects that are impacted. When provided with all necessary details and particularly after an opportunity to examine the vehicle(s) involved in a crash, an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash.

We recommend that you continue to work with Honda and your dealer for any additional information regarding the air bag non-deployment. You also may consider contacting your local Consumer Protection Agency, the Florida Office of the Attorney General, or a private attorney regarding your problem and rights under the State laws.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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