



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



January 28, 2021

[REDACTED]
Gales Creek, OR [REDACTED]

NEF-109 tgd
Ref. No. 11389115

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 1999 Acura 3.5 RL vehicle. Your letter was received in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's roadways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects, such as in their design, construction, or performance. Among other activities, we also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We are aware of NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 20V-026. Honda is recalling the Takata front driver-side air bags in certain MY 1998 through MY 2000 Acura 3.5 RL vehicles. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the air bags, these inflators may underinflate or rupture due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity and temperature cycling.

The recall of defective Takata inflators has grown over the past few years to include 19 separate vehicle manufacturers and currently includes approximately 41.6 million vehicles in the United States, making this the largest, most complex recall in NHTSA's history. The most significant challenge presented by the recall has been the availability of remedy parts, which has been affected by numerous factors including, but not limited to, the need to obtain redesigned parts from alternative inflator suppliers, testing to ensure the safety of remedy parts, manufacturing and capacity constraints given the enormous global demand, and logistics in getting the parts out to the distribution networks and into the dealer's hands.

The agency issued an amended Coordinated Remedy Order in December 2016, to order affected vehicle manufacturers to accelerate recall repairs and prioritize vehicles to reduce the risk of rupture and protect the American public. The Order attaches a prioritization schedule for all vehicles currently affected by the recall, or that will become affected by future expansions, based upon known risk factors such as the age of the inflator, the geographic location of the inflator, and the location of the inflator in the vehicle.

When you receive a notification that parts are available, you should contact Acura and your local dealer to schedule a service appointment immediately. If you are unable to schedule an appointment after receiving a notice that parts are available, you should notify the agency so that

we may investigate whether the vehicle manufacturer has violated the Coordinated Remedy Order. You can file a complaint on our website at <https://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/VehicleComplaint/> or via NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

For the most up-to-date information on the Takata recalls, we also encourage you to visit our website at www.nhtsa.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags.

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be reviewed on our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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