



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

SEP 17 2004

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel, Product Regulatory Office  
American Honda Motor Company, Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501

NVS-213dsy  
EA04-027

Dear Mr. Willen:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened Engineering Analysis (EA) 04-027 to investigate allegations of vehicle fires in model year (MY) 2003 and later Honda CR-V vehicles manufactured by American Honda Motor Company, Inc., and to request certain information.

This office has received 47 reports involving MY 2003 and later Honda CR-V vehicles. Thirty (30) of the reports (12 MY 2003 and 18 MY 2004) allege a vehicle fire occurred in the engine area, with 21 reports stating the fire occurred shortly after the first engine oil service (filter change) and 9 reports stating that oil filter leakage (from a replaced original equipment filter) was the cause of the fire. The remaining 17 reports (6 MY 2003 and 11 MY 2004) allege that significant engine oil leakage occurred and that the leakage often resulted in the appearance of smoke; the smoke was possibly a result of engine oil contacting high temperature engine components, which would be an indicator that an underhood fire was imminent. Sixteen of these reports indicate the leakage occurred shortly after the initial engine oil service (oil filter change) and 11 reports indicate the oil filter was the source of the engine oil leakage. In addition to these 47 reports, ODI has received 2 reports involving MY2002 CR-V vehicles; the reports concern oil leakage related to oil filter service. A copy of each of the reports is contained on the enclosed CD-ROM, labeled EA04-027 IR Attachments, and a list of the ODI numbers are included at the end of this letter.

ODI previously investigated oil filter fires in MY 2003 Honda CR-V vehicles in PE04-018. PE04-018 was closed on July 1, 2004, with a total of 32 oil filter leakage incidents reported to ODI and Honda, including 22 that resulted in vehicle fires. Through a letter dated July 14, 2004, Honda issued a service communication to its dealer network warning that failure to follow correct oil filter installation procedures could result in engine damage or fire. This



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888-DASH-2-DOT  
888-327-4236

communication followed an April 2004 Honda *Service News* article titled "Avoid Problems: Install New Oil Filters Properly." ODI has continued to monitor complaints of oil filter leaks and fires in the MY 2003 and later Honda CR-V's since Honda's July dealer communication. ODI has identified 6 incidents, including 5 fires that occurred after Honda's warning and instruction was sent to dealers.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

- **Subject vehicles:** all MY 2002 through current production Honda CR-V vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.
- **Peer vehicles:** all MY 1997 - 2001 Honda CR-V and all MY 2003 and later Honda Accord and Element vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.
- **Subject component:** The engine oil filter (including the sealing gasket), the engine block surface to which the oil filter gasket mates, all other components used in the mounting and sealing of the oil filter, and any other substance(s) applied in the vicinity of the area where the filter and engine block mate.
- **Honda:** American Honda Motor Company, Inc., its parent, Honda Motor Company, LTD, all of their past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to their principal offices or any of their field or other locations, including all of their divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of Honda (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after 1996, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the *subject vehicles*:
  - a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g. quality control);
  - b. Testing, assessment or evaluation;
  - c. Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, or lawsuits;
  - d. Investigation or assessment of underhood fires or leakage of oil from, around or in the vicinity of the oil filter in the *subject vehicles*; or
  - e. Communication to, from or intended for zone representatives, fleets, dealers, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from dealers.
- **Alleged defect:** Engine oil leakage from, around or in the vicinity of the engine oil filter.
- **Document:** "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda,

correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by Honda, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, "document(s)" also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by Honda or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.

- **Other Terms:** To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms "claim," "consumer complaint," "dealer field report," "field report," "fire," "fleet," "good will," "make," "model," "model year," "notice," "property damage," "property damage claim," "rollover," "type," "warranty," "warranty adjustment," and "warranty claim," whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. Insofar as Honda has previously provided a document to ODI, Honda may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-

explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

ODI asks that Honda provide previously submitted paper documents in the manner described above. As to its electronic responses to Request Numbers 1 (PRODUCTION DATA), 4 (COMPLAINT DATA), and 7 (WARRANTY DATA), ODI requests that Honda provide a comprehensive response that incorporates all the information requested in this letter into a single new submission, regardless of whether the information was previously supplied to ODI.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After Honda's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. State, by model and model year, the number of *subject vehicles* Honda has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each *subject vehicle* manufactured to date by Honda, state the following:
  - a. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
  - b. Engine serial number, plant where the engine was manufactured, and the date of engine manufacture, including shift information;
  - c. Date of vehicle manufacture;
  - d. Date vehicle warranty coverage commenced; and
  - e. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "PRODUCTION DATA." See Enclosure 1, EA04-027 IR Attachments, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

2. State, by model, model year, and engine, the number of *peer vehicles* Honda has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.
3. State the number of each of the following, received by Honda, or of which Honda is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, a vehicle fire in the engine compartment and or the alleged defect in the *subject vehicles*:
  - a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
  - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
  - c. Reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a *subject vehicle*, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
  - d. Reports involving a fire in the engine compartment, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a *subject vehicle*, property damage claims, consumer complaints, field reports or other communications (including verbal communications) from dealers;
  - e. Property damage claims;

- f. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Honda is or was a party to the arbitration; and
- g. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Honda is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "g," state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a fire occurred are to be counted as a fire report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "c" through "g," provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Honda's assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "f" and "g," identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

4. Separately, for each item (e.g., complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of Honda's response to Request No. 3, state the following information:
  - a. Honda's file number or other identifier used;
  - b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 3 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
  - c. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;
  - d. Vehicle's VIN;
  - e. Vehicle's make, model and model year;
  - f. Date of the incident (engine compartment fire; engine oil leakage from, around or in the vicinity of the engine oil filter);
  - g. Date of engine oil service preceding the incident, if any;
  - h. Facility name and address where engine oil was serviced preceding the incident, if any;
  - i. Vehicle's mileage at time of incident;
  - j. Date of report, complaint, claim, notice of other item;
  - k. Whether the vehicle has been inspected by Honda or a Honda representative, and if so, a summary of any determination as to the cause of the fire or occurrence of the alleged defect;
  - l. Whether a crash is alleged;
  - m. Whether a fire is alleged;
  - n. Whether engine oil leaked from, around or in the vicinity of the engine oil filter, and if so, whether the oil filter installed on the vehicle at the time of the incident was original equipment (Honda installed prior to delivery to a dealer or fleet), the first service replacement based on records available to Honda, or a subsequent service replacement oil filter (i.e., a second, third etc replacement the first service replacement);
  - o. The part number and supplier of the oil filter installed on the vehicle at the time of its manufacture;
  - p. The part number and supplier of the oil filter installed on the vehicle at the time of the incident;
  - q. Whether property damage is alleged;
  - r. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
  - s. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "COMPLAINT DATA." See Enclosure 1, EA04-027 IR Attachments, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

5. a. Produce copies of all documents in Honda's possession related to each item within the scope of Request No. 3. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method Honda used for any further organization of the documents.
  - b. For each incident involving a fire in a *subject vehicle* that has been attributed to the alleged defect, including but not limited to those that are the subject of the 30 reports referred to on page 1 of this letter, and regardless of whether Honda agrees with any allegation pertaining to a fire, produce copies of all documents in the possession of Honda related to the incident, including but not limited to records and other documents by or from the dealer or other service facility, including its employees and contractors, where the oil filter was changed, photographs of the vehicle after the fire with associated descriptions, documents by investigators, documents prepared by persons engaged directly or indirectly by Honda, documents by Honda employees, and documents by or from the owner or lessor of the vehicle, his or her insurer, or an attorney, claims adjustor, engineer or assessor for the owner, lessor, insurer or one of their attorneys.
  - c. For each incident involving engine oil leakage from, around or in the vicinity of the engine oil filter in a *subject vehicle*, including but not limited to those that are the subject of the 17 reports referred to on page 1 of this letter, and regardless of whether Honda agrees with any allegation pertaining to the leakage, produce copies of all documents in the possession of Honda related to the incident, including but not limited to records and other documents by or from the dealer or other service facility, including its employees and contractors, where the oil/oil filter was changed, photographs of the vehicle during or after the leakage, documents by investigators, documents by technicians or engineers, documents prepared by persons engaged directly or indirectly by Honda, documents by Honda employees, and documents by or from the owner or lessor of the vehicle, his or her insurer, or an attorney, claims adjustor, engineer or assessor for the owner, lessor, insurer or one of their attorneys.
6. State by model, model year, and engine the number of each of the following, received by Honda, or of which Honda is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, a vehicle fire in the engine compartment and or the alleged defect in the *peer vehicles*:
    - a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
    - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
    - c. Reports involving a fire, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a *peer vehicle*, property damage claims, consumer complaints, field reports or other communications (including verbal communications) from dealers;
    - d. Property damage claims;
    - e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Honda is or was a party to the arbitration; and

f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Honda is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "f," state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately by model, model year, and engine. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a fire occurred are to be counted as a fire report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

7. State, by model and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by Honda to date that relate to, or may relate to, a vehicle fire in the engine compartment and or the alleged defect in the *subject vehicles*: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign.

Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

- a. Honda's claim number;
- b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
- c. VIN;
- d. Repair date;
- e. Whether a fire is alleged;
- f. Vehicle mileage at time of repair;
- g. Repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code;
- h. Labor operation number;
- i. Problem code;
- j. Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
- k. Concern stated by customer; and
- l. Comment, if any, by dealer/technician relating to claim and/or repair.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA." See Enclosure 1, EA04-027 IR Attachments, for a pre-formatted table which provides further details regarding this submission.

8. Describe in detail the search criteria used by Honda to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 7, including the labor operations, problem codes, part numbers and any other pertinent parameters used. Provide a list of all labor operations, labor operation descriptions, problem codes, and problem code descriptions applicable to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. State, by make and model year, the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by Honda on the *subject and peer vehicles* (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s), whether they relate to the subject components or not, that Honda offered for the *subject and peer vehicles*, and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty.

9. Produce copies of all service, warranty, and other documents that relate to, or may relate to, vehicle fires in the engine compartment and or the alleged defect in the *subject vehicles*, that Honda has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities. This includes, but is not limited to, bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other documents or communications, with the exception of standard shop manuals. Also include the latest draft copy of any communication that Honda is planning to issue within the next 120 days.
10. Describe all assessments, analyses, tests, test results, studies, surveys, simulations, investigations, inquiries or evaluations (collectively, "actions") that relate to, or may relate to, vehicle fires in the engine compartment, the alleged defect or the subject components in the *subject vehicles*, that have been conducted, are being conducted, are planned, or are being planned by, or for, Honda. This includes, but is not limited to, actions involving the engine block to oil filter seal surface and its roughness, microstructure or porosity. For each such action, provide the following information:
  - a. Action title or identifier;
  - b. The actual or planned start date;
  - c. The actual or expected end date;
  - d. Brief summary of the subject and objective of the action;
  - e. Engineering group(s)/supplier(s) responsible for designing and for conducting the action;
  - f. A summary description of the nature and the methodology of the action; and,
  - g. A brief summary of the findings and/or conclusions resulting from the action.

For each action identified, provide copies of all documents related to the action, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Organize the documents chronologically by action.

11. For each facility supplying engines for the *subject vehicles*:
  - a. State the address of the engine production facility;
  - b. Identify the vehicle production facilities (including non-subject vehicle facilities) to which the engine facility supplies engines on either a regular or irregular basis;
  - c. State the name and address of the engine block casting supplier;
  - d. Describe the quality control/material inspection processes for the engine oil filter and the engine block oil filter sealing surface; and,
  - e. State whether the facility installs the oil filter as part of engine production, and (i) if so, describe the step-by-step process used for oil filter installation, including written instructions, production diagrams/aids, tooling and equipment, record keeping activities, and any subsequent over checks or control measures; and (ii) if not, where the oil filter is installed prior to completion of manufacture of the vehicle and the step-by-step installation process that is followed.



12. Describe all modifications or changes made by, or on behalf of, Honda in the design, material composition, manufacture, production process, production facilities, quality control, component suppliers (including production and service components), production equipment, or installation of the engine oil filter and other subject components, from the start of *subject vehicle* production to date, which relate to, or may relate to, vehicle fires in the engine compartment and the alleged defect in the *subject vehicles*. For each such modification or change, provide the following information:

- a. The date or approximate date on which the modification or change was incorporated into vehicle or component production;
- b. A detailed description of the modification or change;
- c. The reason(s) for the modification or change;

And for any change or modification which involved a vehicle, engine or subject component, provide the following information:

- d. The part numbers (service and engineering) of the original component;
- e. The part number (service and engineering) of the modified component;
- f. Whether the original unmodified component was withdrawn from production and/or sale, and if so, when;
- g. When the modified component was made available as a service component; and
- h. Whether the modified component can be interchanged with earlier production components.

Also, provide the above information for any modification or change of which Honda is aware that may be incorporated into vehicle production within the next 120 days.

13. Produce two exemplar samples of each type of engine oil filter currently being installed on *subject vehicles* during engine production (or, if oil filters are not installed during engine production, then when they are installed), and of each type of engine oil filter currently being installed during engine production on *peer vehicles* that are in current production (Element and Accord).

14. For all engine oil filters (each design version or variant) used as original equipment components in *subject vehicle* engine production separately:

- a. State all part numbers (engineering, production, service) of the component;
- b. State the supplier's name, address and an appropriate point of contact (name, title, and telephone number);
- c. Identify by make, model, model year and engine any other vehicles of which Honda is aware that contain the identical component, whether installed in production or in service;
- d. State the engine production location(s) and dates (from month-year, to month year) that the component was supplied to Honda or to Honda's supplier;
- e. Provide an engineering specification and component drawing; and,
- f. State the "line call out" specification of the component's rubber seal, as described in SAE standard J200 (copy provided, see enclosure).

15. For each engine oil filter (each design version or variant) sold by Honda for use as a service replacement component on the *subject vehicles*:
  - a. State all part numbers (engineering, service) of the component;
  - b. State the supplier's name, address and an appropriate point of contact (name, title, and telephone number);
  - c. Identify by make, model, model year and engine any other vehicles of which Honda is aware that contain the identical component, whether installed in production or in service;
  - d. State the dates (from month-year, to month year) that Honda offered the component for sale or use;
  - e. Provide an engineering specification and component drawing; and,
  - f. State the "line call out" specification of the component's rubber seal, as described in SAE standard J200 (copy provided, see enclosure).
  
16. For each model year of the *subject vehicles*, and for the first linear meter of the exhaust system (section) starting from the exhaust manifold and measuring downstream:
  - a. State whether the section of the system contains any portion of a catalytic converter (an emissions control device);
  - b. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section with the engine at idle and operating through a warm-up cycle (from ambient to normal operating temperature) and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from;
  - c. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section while the vehicle is being driven at a constant highway speed (65 MPH) on straight and level roadway and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from; and,
  - d. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section while the vehicle is being driven at a constant highway speed (65 MPH) on straight a roadway with a 7% uphill gradient and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from.
  
17. For the model year 2001 CR-V *peer vehicle*, and for the first linear meter of the exhaust system (section), starting from the exhaust manifold and measuring downstream:
  - a. State whether the section of the system contains any portion of a catalytic converter (an emissions control device);
  - b. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section with the engine at idle and through a warm-up cycle (from ambient to normal operating temperature), and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from;
  - c. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section while the vehicle is being driven at a constant highway speed (65 MPH) on a straight and level roadway, and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from; and,
  - d. Provide data showing the typical and maximum exterior surface (skin) temperatures measured along the section while the vehicle is being driven at a constant highway speed

(65 MPH) on a straight roadway with a 7% uphill gradient, and ensure the data identifies the ambient temperature the data was collected from.

18. Furnish Honda's assessment (and the basis for its assessment) of vehicle fires (including, but not limited to, those identified on page one of this letter) in the engine compartment and the occurrence of the alleged defect in the *subject and peer vehicles*, including:
- a. The causal or contributory factor(s);
  - b. The failure mechanism(s);
  - c. The failure mode(s);
  - d. The risk to motor vehicle safety that it poses;
  - e. The likelihood that vehicle fires in the engine compartment and or the alleged defect will continue to occur as the *subject vehicle* fleet ages and receives future oil filter services;
  - f. Honda's assessment of the relative MY engine compartment fire and alleged defect rate differences and any trend indications in the *subject vehicles*;
  - g. Honda's assessment of the relative engine compartment fire rates between *subject and peer vehicles*; and
  - h. What warnings, if any, the operator and the other persons both inside and outside the vehicle would have that the alleged defect was occurring or subject component was malfunctioning.
  - i.

This letter is being sent to Honda pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports and the production of things. It constitutes a new request for information. Honda's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject Honda to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) Please note that maximum civil penalties under 49 U.S.C. § 30165 have increased as a result of the recent enactment of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, Public Law No. 106-414 (signed November 1, 2000). Section 5(a) of the TREAD Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. § 30165(b), provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day, with a maximum of \$15 million for a related series of violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If Honda cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, Honda does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, Honda must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

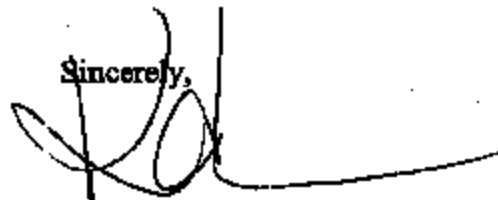
Honda's response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 for requests 1 through 9 and 18, and by October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 for the remaining requests. Please refer to EA04-027 in Honda's response to this letter. If Honda finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, Honda must request an extension from Mr. Jeffrey Quandt at (202) 366-5207 no later than five business days before the response due date. If Honda is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information Honda then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If Honda claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, Honda must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-113), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

Pursuant to the requirements of Part 512, an entity seeking confidential treatment for information submitted to the agency must, among other things, clearly identify the items within its submission for which confidentiality is sought. Further, requests for confidential treatment must state why the information is confidential and explain with sufficient detail and particularity the reasons why the information should be treated as confidential. Also in accordance with Part 512, Honda is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call Mr. Scott Yon of my staff at (202) 366-6761.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

Enclosure 1, one CD ROM titled EA04-027 IR Attachments containing three database files and 55 Adobe PDF files of VOQs and one Adobe PDF file of SAE standard J200.

ODI numbers for VOQs:

Forty seven (47), MY2003 – 2004: 10042645, 10045221, 10051179, 10053237, 10054408, 10056210, 10067877, 10072698, 10075866, 10078714, 10078798, 10080658, 10080667, 10080722, 10080741, 10080801, 10081077, 10081234, 10081292, 10081600, 10081628, 10081719, 10081737, 10081758, 10081762, 10081777, 10081782, 10082128, 10082143, 10082516, 10082566, 10083208, 10083308, 10083523, 10083676, 10086123, 10086130, 10086337, 10087426, 10087944, 10088380, 10088632, 10090540, 10090548, 10090781, 10091490, 10091505

Two (2), MY2002: 10080892, 10091971