

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501 2746  
Phone (310) 783 2000

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February 9, 2005

NVS-212-pco  
PE04-081

Mr. Thomas Z. Cooper, Chief  
Vehicle Integrity Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Cooper:

In reply to your letter dated January 19, 2005, we are submitting a peer vehicle response for side-impact and curtain airbags.

1. State, by model year, the number of subject peer vehicles Honda has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. If there are multiple side airbag system designs or versions for a given subject peer vehicle, please identify under section "e." Separately, for each model subject vehicle manufactured to date by Honda, state the following:
  - A. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
  - B. Make;
  - C. Model;
  - D. Model Year;
  - E. Airbag system model version (if more than one);
  - F. Date of manufacture;
  - G. Date warranty coverage commenced; and
  - H. 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, titled "PRODUCTION DATA."

Response:

Items "a" through "h" are on the enclosed data CD in the PRODUCTION DATA file. These vehicles have one airbag system model version.

Make	Model	Model Year	Sales
Honda	Accord EX V6	2003	131,580

Source: Units file containing information on all vehicles received from the factories.  
As of: 01/18/2005

2. 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, the subject condition in the subject peer 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. Property damage claims (including own vehicle);
  - 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 "d," 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 crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint). Identify reports that have a duplicate with either other mfg reports/claims or with ODI.

In addition, for items "c" through "f," 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 along with any photographs and airbag control module diagnostic result/readout/printout (along with explanation/description). For items "e" and "f," 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.

Response: See Attachment Q2-1 and Q2-2.

The total number of reports for items "a" through "f" are stated in the table below. The net number of reports (duplicates eliminated) is 33.

Model	Model Year	A Owner/ Fleet Reports	B Field/ Dealer Reports	C Crash, Injury, Fatality Reports	D Property Damage Claims	E Third-Party Arbitration	F Lawsuits
Honda Accord EX V6	2003	20	23	1	0	1	0

Please refer to attachment Q2-1 for the summary descriptions.

Please refer to attachment Q2-2 for identification of reports that have a duplicate.

Source(s): Customer Relations, Dealer Tech Line, Field Reports, Legal  
 As of: 01/19/2005

3. State, by model and model year, the number and 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, the subject condition in the subject peer vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for goodwill 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.

Provide this information in Microsoft Excel table, or a compatible format, titled "WARRANTY DATA COUNT."

Response:

The total number of warranty claims is stated in the table below. Of these 11 claims, nine duplicate the report count specified in request no. 2.

Model	Model Year	Warranty Claims	Goodwill Claims	Extended Warranty Claims
Honda Accord EX V6	2003	10	1	0

Source(s): Warranty claim data for MY2003 Accord EX V6  
As of: Through 01/25/2005

4. Describe in detail the search criteria used by Honda to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 3, 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 subject condition in the subject peer vehicles. State, by make and model year, the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by Honda on the subject peer vehicles (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered) and if it covers inadvertent side-airbag deployments (without an actual side crash, but sensors did sense a shock pulse). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s) that Honda offered for the subject peer vehicles and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty and if it covers inadvertent side-airbag deployments.

Response:

Search criteria: Using MY2003 Accord warranty data, claims were pulled based on submodel code and part numbers for the side and curtain airbags. The contention text description for each claim was manually reviewed to identify relevant claims. Labor operations and problem codes were not used to pull the data.

Warranty coverage: The 2003 Honda Accord is covered by a new vehicle limited warranty for three years or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first. Under the terms of the new vehicle limited warranty, Honda will repair or replace any part that is defective in material or workmanship under normal use. This warranty covers all systems except emission control systems, accessories, battery or tires, which have their own warranties. Honda has not issued any extended warranty related to the subject condition in the subject vehicles.

5. Produce a table showing the following information concerning the side-impact airbag systems in the subject peer vehicles by model and model year:
- A. Type of side airbag system (thorax, head, curtain or combination thereof);
  - B. Location of each seating position at which a side airbag system is installed;
  - C. The number of side airbags at each of those seating positions; and
  - D. Bag location (seat mounted, door mounted, etc.)

Response:

- A. The side airbag system consists of individual thorax and curtain airbags. The system is designed to deploy both airbags simultaneously.
  - B. Side airbags are located in the seating positions for the driver and front passenger. Curtain airbags are located in the roof for the front and rear outboard seating positions.
  - C. Side airbag: One.  
Curtain airbag: one for the left side and one for the right side.
  - D. Side airbag: Seat mounted.  
Curtain airbag: Roof mounted.
6. For each model, model year of the subject peer vehicles, identify the supplier of the side-impact crash sensing system and electronic restraint module. Please provide a complete street address, contact name, and telephone number for each supplier identified.

Response:

Side-impact crash sensing system supplier:

TRW Automotive Inc.  
4505 W. 26 Mile Rd.  
Washington, MI 48094  
(586) 781-7458  
Charlie Steffens, Director OSS Safety Systems/System Design Leader

Electronic restraint module supplier (side airbag module):

Autoliv  
9F Nisso, Building 13  
2-5-1 Shinyokohama, Kohoku-ku  
Yokohama, Japan 222-0033  
+81-45-475-3501  
Shigeki Banno, Honda Account Director

Electronic restraint module supplier (curtain airbag module):

Takata Corporation  
4-2-20 Higashishukugo, Utsunomiya  
Tochigi, Japan 321-0953  
+81-28-639-2133  
Tadashi Tanaka, Assistant Manager

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Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Attachments

**PE04-081 Attachment Q2-1**

**Additional Information for Items "C" - Reports Involving a Crash, Injury or Fatality**

1HGCM66563A [REDACTED]

**Report type:** Injury

**Source:** Dealer report

The claimant stated the side and curtain airbags deployed for no apparent reason while driving. The dealer reported scuffmarks on the left rear wheel consistent with an impact. A manufacturer's representative has not inspected the vehicle. The driver was pregnant and reportedly spent the night in the hospital due to a concussion. (See attached photos.)

**Additional Information for Items "E" - Third-Party Arbitration**

1HGCM66513A [REDACTED]

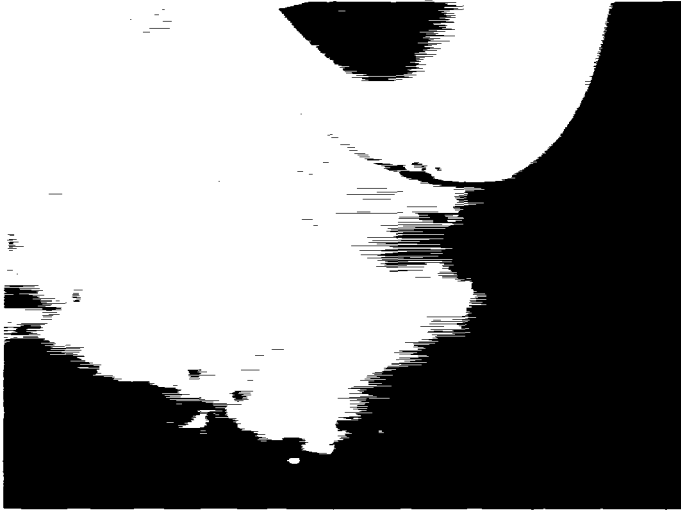
**Sources:** Customer contact

Dealer report

BBB

The customer stated the side and curtain airbags deployed for no apparent reason while driving. The customer filed with the BBB to arbitrate a goodwill repair on July 7, 2004. A vehicle inspection by Honda's representative indicated the deployment was not a manufacturer defect and is not covered under warranty. The BBB determined the case was ineligible for arbitration because the customer's claim is covered by their insurance policy. (See attached photos.)

Left rear tire scuff and rim damage.



Left rear tire scuff and rim damage.



Left rear tire scuff and rim damage



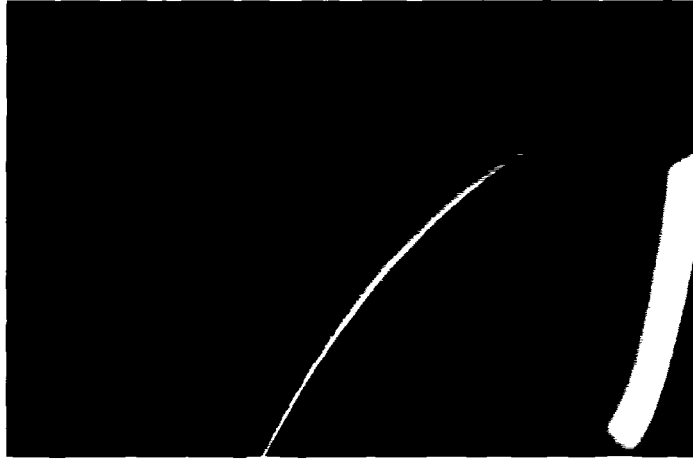
Rocker panel strike.



Close-up of rocker panel strike.



Bruised tire.



Same bruised tire.



Frame strike.



Damage to tie down hook.





PE04-081 Attachment Q2-2

	Duplicates	Owner Report	Dealer Report	Warranty Claim	
1HGCM66513A	1		1	1	
1HGCM66513A	0			1	
1HGCM66523A	1		1	1	
1HGCM66533A	2	1	1	1	Goodwill
1HGCM66553A	1		1	1	
1HGCM66553A	2	1	1	1	
1HGCM66563A	1		1	1	Alleged injury
1HGCM66563A	1	1		1	
1HGCM66573A	0			1	
1HGCM66583A	2	1	1	1	
1HGCM82613A	2	1	1	1	
1HGCM66513A	0		1		
1HGCM66513A	1	1	1		BBB
1HGCM66523A	0	1			
1HGCM66523A	0		1		
1HGCM66523A	1	1	1		
1HGCM66523A	1	1	1		
1HGCM66523A	0		1		
1HGCM66523A	1	1	1		
1HGCM66523A	0	1			
1HGCM66533A	0		1		
1HGCM66543A	0		1		
1HGCM66543A	0	1			
1HGCM66553A	1	1	1		
1HGCM66553A	0	1			
1HGCM66563A	0		1		
1HGCM66583A	0	1			
1HGCM66583A	0		1		
1HGCM66593A	0	1			
1HGCM66593A	0		1		
1HGCM665X3A	0		1		
1HGCM665X3A	0	1			
1HGCM81774A	0	1			
1HGCM82683A	0	1			
1HGCM82713A	1	1	1		
	19	20	23	11	