



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA08-015
Date Opened: 08/08/2008
Prompted By: PE08-026
Principal Investigator: Michael Lee
Subject: Unexpected Closing of Power Liftgate

Manufacturer: American Honda Motor Company, Inc.
Products: 2005 Honda Odyssey
Population: 25,230

Problem Description: Failure of the gas-filled liftgate struts can result in unexpected closing of the liftgate.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	50	51
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	10	10
# Injuries:	0	10	10
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1995	1995

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for liftgate strut replacement.

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Michael Lee MJL
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The liftgate gas struts for the subject vehicles may have damaged gas seals that allow the liftgate to close unexpectedly. At the completion of a power-open command, the power liftgate may either close without power actuation (i.e., descend unassisted under the force of gravity) or automatically power-close without input from the operator. Some owners are caught unaware of the unintended closing of the liftgate while under the rear liftgate door. There have been ten reported injuries related to the alleged problem on the subject vehicles.