



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** EA 09-014  
**Prompted by:** PE09-024  
**Date Opened:** 10/19/2009 **Date Closed:** 05/11/2010  
**Principal Investigator:** Kerrin Bressant  
**Subject:** Air in brake system

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)  
**Products:** 2007-2008 HONDA ODYSSEY, 2007-2008 HONDA ELEMENT  
**Population:** 412,000  
**Problem Description:** Air may enter the brake system via the ABS/VSA modulator, resulting in complaints of low/soft/spongy brake pedals and extended stopping distances.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	116	736	817**
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	10	9	17**
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	3	0	3
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	7	0	7
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	0	3817	3817

\*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

\*\* Count indicates duplicate reports received by ODI and manufacturer.

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Engineering Analysis has been closed. Recall 10V-098

### Summary:

By letter dated March 15, 2010, American Honda Motor Corp. (HMC) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that it will conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Recall No. 10V-098) to address a defect in approximately 412,000 model year (MY) 2007 and 2008 Honda Odyssey and Element vehicles equipped with an ABS/VSA/TCS modulator. The recalled Odyssey vehicles were built from August 2006 August 2008. The recalled Element vehicles were built from July 2006 to July 2008.

According to Honda, during an initial self-check process that occurs shortly after each engine ignition cycle, the self-diagnostic software for the VSA modulator allows a vacuum condition that can exist for several hours, allowing air to enter the VSA modulator pump. Over time, and thousands of engine ignition cycles, it is possible for enough air to enter the system to result in a brake pedal that feels soft or lower to the floor. If the customer does not have any brake service or maintenance performed over a period of months or years, the system can continue to accumulate enough air to affect braking performance. To correct the safety defect, Honda dealers will remove existing air in the brake system then apply sealant and caps to the VSA modulator to prevent air from entering the brake system, free of charge.

The action taken by Honda is sufficient to resolve the issues raised by this investigation. The agency will continue to monitor this issue and reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.