



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-024
Date Opened: 05/13/2009
Principal Investigator: Kerrin Bressant
Subject: Air in Brake System

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
Products: 2006 – 2008 Honda Odyssey
Population: 536,904 (estimated)

Problem Description: The ABS/VSA modulator may leak air into the brake system, resulting in complaints alleging a low/soft brake pedal and extended stopping distance.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	52		
Crashes/Fires:	4		
Injury Incidents:	3		
# Injuries:	7		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Kerrin Bressant
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/13/2009

Date: 05/13/2009

Date: 05/13/2009

JP 5/13

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation has received 52 complaints alleging low or soft brake pedals in model year (MY) 2006 through 2008 Honda Odyssey minivans. Several complaints allege that the condition resulted in extended stopping distances, including 4 alleged crashes and 2 allegations of vehicles running past stop signs/signals.

On January 14, 2009, Honda issued Service Bulletin 07-045 concerning low/soft brake pedals in certain MY 2003 through 2007 Honda Accord and MY 2007 through 2008 Honda Odyssey vehicles. A revised bulletin was issued March 5, 2009, adding MY 2007 through 2008 Honda Element vehicles. The bulletin describes the condition symptom as follows, "when you apply the brakes, the brake pedal travels lower and feels softer than normal." The bulletin identifies the probable cause as, "the ABS/TCS or VSA modulator-control unit has leaked air into the brake system." The bulletin repair procedure involves replacing the ABS/TCS or VSA modulator control unit.

Some of the ODI complaints indicate that the bulletin procedure was performed to address the concern. Because ODI's complaint input is significantly higher for the Odyssey vehicles, they are the subject vehicles of this investigation. However, ODI will also request information from Honda regarding the other vehicles identified in the bulletin.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and potential safety consequences of the alleged defect.