



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

NOV 23 2010

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Lalitha Seetharaman
2 Nutmeg Place
Newtown, PA 18940

NVS-213dlr
DP10-004

Dear Ms. Seetharaman:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your petition, received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) on November 5, 2010, requesting that NHTSA open an investigation and recall model year (MY) 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid vehicles because of a possible defect related to the braking system. Your petition has been assigned the identification number DP10-004. A copy of the opening resume denoting receipt of the petition is attached for your information.

In accordance with Title 49 CFR Part 552, "Petitions for Rulemaking, Defects, and Noncompliance Orders," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will conduct a review of the petition and other pertinent information and will notify you further upon completion.

Sincerely,

Richard Boyd, Acting Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure:
DP10-004 Open Resume



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ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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Investigation: DP 10-004
Prompted by: Consumer Petition
Date Opened: 11/18/2010
Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Braking Performance, Hybrid Vehicle
Reviewer: Jeff Quandt

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)
Products: Model Year 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid Vehicles
Population: 25,000

Problem Description: Petition request for ODI to conduct a defect investigation for alleged brake failures in MY 2005 Honda Accord and Honda Civic Hybrid vehicles.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	4	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	1	TBD	TBD
Other*:	22	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other: Complaints of Honda Accord / Civic Hybrids identified by the petitioner having similar brake issues.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: The petition will be evaluated for a grant or deny decision.

Summary:

A defect petition letter was received by the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) requesting a formal investigation and recall of MY 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid vehicles for a possible safety defect related to braking performance.

The petitioner (with assistance from another consumer due to her injuries) filed a complaint with ODI under Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) 10329383. In the complaint the petitioner described being involved in a crash on July 23, 2005 while driving a subject vehicle. Summarily, the complaint alleges while traversing rumble strips along side of the highway and simultaneously attempting to the brake, the brakes were ineffective and the vehicle began to accelerate uncontrollably. This began a chain of events where the vehicle eventually crossed over into traffic flowing in the opposite direction. The end result was the death of her passenger and injuries to the occupants of two other vehicles. The petitioner also alleges the crash left her disabled.

Subsequent to the incident on July 23, 2005, the petitioner did a search of ODI's complaint database and identified 22 additional complaints involving other Honda Accord Hybrid and Honda Civic Hybrid vehicles that the petitioner felt represented similar incidents where the braking performance was inadequate under conditions of braking while driving over uneven road surfaces.

ODI will evaluate the petition for a grant or deny decision.