



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EQ 12-010
Prompted by: 12V-062, 10V-055, 08V-244, 06V-069
Date Opened: 09/28/2012
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Stabilus Rear Liftgate Struts Failing

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Stabilus, Honda (American Honda Motor Co.), Ford Motor Company, TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION
Products: Multiple MFR make/models between 2004-2009
Population: 276,473 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Stabilus gas struts, installed on the rear liftgates of multiple manufacturers' vehicles, may fail causing unexpected closure of the rear liftgate.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ.

Summary:

On February 16, 2012, American Honda Motor Company (Honda) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain model year 2008 through 2009 Odyssey vehicles. Gas-filled struts that help to raise and support the liftgate of vehicles equipped with a power liftgate system may be prone to early life failures due to a manufacturing flaw. The flaw can result in a leak of the pressurized gas, leading to reduced strut performance. Struts with diminished performance can lead to unexpected closure, increasing the risk of personal injury. Stabilus was identified as the manufacturer of these gas-filled struts. This matter was assigned recall number 12V-062.

In reviewing past records, RMD discovered similar recalls conducted by Toyota, Ford, and Honda between 2006 and 2010. On February 18, 2010, Honda notified the NHTSA of the same rear liftgate gas strut issue in its 2005 Odyssey vehicles. This issue was given recall number 10V-055. On May 30, 2008, Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota) notified the NHTSA of the same issue found in its 2004 through 2006 Sienna vehicles. This issue was given recall number 08V-244. On March 6, 2006, Ford Motor Company (Ford) notified the NHTSA of the same issue found in its 2005 through 2006 Freestar and Mercury Monterey vehicles. This issue was given recall number 06V-069. These three recalls did not originally identify the supplier of the gas struts, however, all three manufacturers have since confirmed that Stabilus supplied the equipment at issue in each recall.

The purpose of the EQ is to write to Stabilus and to contact any other company that might have purchased this equipment, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.