



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 13-024
Date Opened: 06/25/2013
Investigator: Paul Simmons
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Inappropriate autonomous braking
Date Closed: 11/04/2013
Reviewer: Jeff Quandt

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
Products: MY 2007 and 2008 Honda Odyssey
Population: 344,187

Problem Description: Stability assist system fault may result in heavy and unexpected braking without the driver pressing on the brake pedal and without brake lamp illumination, increasing the risk of a crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	54	179	196**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	109	109

*Description of Other: Warranty claims

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Recall No. 13V-500.

Summary:

In a letter dated October 31, 2013, Honda Motor Company (Honda) submitted a recall notice to NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation describing a defect in the Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) system in approximately 344,187 model year (MY) 2007 and 2008 Honda Odyssey vehicles produced from August 8, 2006 through September 8, 2008 (NHTSA Recall 13V-500, Honda Recall JC5). The report describes a defect condition caused by a combination of VSA system components and software that is unique to the MY 2007-2008 Honda Odyssey vehicles. The condition may result in unexpected brake application by the VSA system with no brake lamp illumination. The braking forces resulting from the condition can approach the maximum braking capability of the vehicle.

Honda's investigation determined that (1) if the yaw rate sensor off-set exceeds a certain value, (2) the sensor calibration is not completed before the vehicle starts moving after start-up, and (3) the vehicle is driven in a specific manner; the VSA system may build hydraulic pressure in the brake system resulting in heavy, unexpected braking without the driver applying the brake pedal. Honda estimates that the parts necessary to correct this condition will not be available until March 2014. Pending part availability, Honda will send interim letters to affected owners including instructions to avoid the defect condition using a procedure to ensure proper VSA system calibration after each vehicle start-up, as well as instructions about what to do if unexpected brake application occurs while driving.

Once the remedy parts are available, Honda will send a second notice advising owners to bring their vehicle to their dealer for installation of a redesigned yaw rate sensor.

This investigation is closed.