

HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

July 12, 2000

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,
Associate Administrator
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

00V-184 (2)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On June 28, 2000, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

573.5(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.5(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord Sedan	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCG5***YA085804 to 1HGCG5***YA103529 January 20, 2000 to February 29, 2000
		1HGCG6***YA085544 to 1HGCG6***YA103642 January 20, 2000 to February 29, 2000
		1HGCF8***YA085819 to 1HGCF8***YA103584 January 20, 2000 to February 29, 2000
Honda Accord Coupe	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCG3***YA012205 to 1HGCG3***YA015368 January 20, 2000 to February 29, 2000

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The affected rear suspension lower arm or control arms were part of a vendor's lot that was improperly welded. The affected VIN range reflects vehicles that could have received parts from the affected lot.

573.5(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 19,540
Total number of suspect suspension lower and control arms: 845

573.5(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Less than 4%

573.5(c)(5)

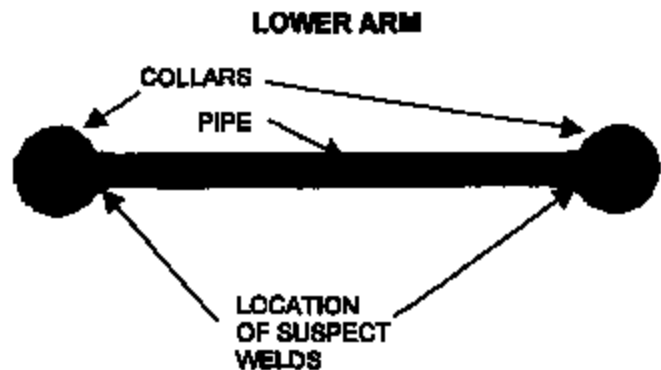
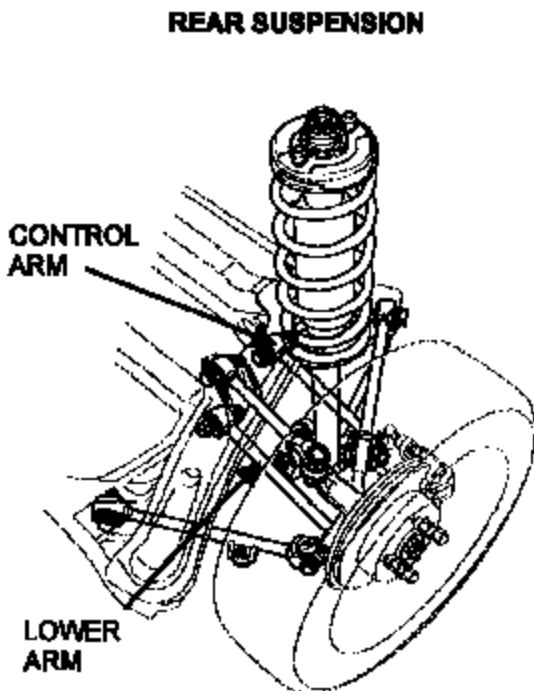
Defect description:

Summary

The rear suspension lower arm or control arm could break due to improper welding. Although there is no danger of losing the wheel if a rear suspension arm breaks, vehicle handling and control would be reduced.

Detail

A misaligned welding tip on an automatic welding machine caused inadequate weld penetration between the pipe and collar of rear suspension lower arms or control arms. Inadequate weld penetration can allow the collar to separate from the pipe. Lower arm or control arm separation can result in an extreme amount of toe and noticeable handling instability.



573.5(c)(8)

Chronology:

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| April 3, 2000 | HAM received warranty claim information about a vehicle with broken rear suspension and contacted the dealer. |
| April 8, 2000 | HAM received the claim parts and initiated an investigation. |
| June 8, 2000 | At the request of HAM, the part supplier applied temporary countermeasures by increasing quality control processes, including cross-sectioning sample parts on an hourly basis to examine weld quality and increasing parameter controls (e.g., regular checks of weld tip alignment). |
| June 23, 2000 | Although the root cause of the misaligned weld tip had not been identified, based on current facts, HAM notified HMC of the preliminary investigation results. |
| June 28, 2000 | HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists. |

573.5(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect the rear lower arms and rear control arms on both sides of the vehicle for applicable lot codes. Suspension parts with an affected lot number will be replaced, free of charge.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

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| The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: | July 7, 2000 |
| The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers: | July 8, 2000 |
| The estimated date of completion of the notification: | July 10, 2000 |

573.5(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
July 12, 2000
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573.5(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification was previously submitted.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ka

HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

December 21, 2000

NHTSA Ref.: 00V-184

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,
Associate Administrator
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED
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DEFECT & INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

We have recently become aware that some vehicles manufactured by Honda de Mexico should be included in the above-referenced recall file number. Information for these additional vehicles is as follows.

Name of manufacturer: Honda de Mexico, S.A. De C.V. (HDM)

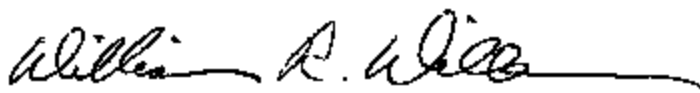
Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord Sedan	Certain 2000 model year	3HGCG6***YG702766 to 3HGCG6***YG703065 February 10, 2000 to March 3, 2000

Total number of additional vehicles potentially affected: 360

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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