

HONDA

RECEIVED
NVS-210
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2748
Phone (310) 783-2000

2003 FEB 11 P 1:03

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

February 10, 2003

Mr. George Person, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation, Safety Assurance
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 03V-014

Dear Mr. White:

In accordance with our campaign to correct a safety defect related to the fuel tank in certain 2003 model year Honda Odyssey vehicles, we are submitting a copy of the dealer bulletin, which also include the text of the customer letter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Enclosure



Applies To: **2003 Odyssey** – From VIN 5FNRL1...3B041904 thru 5FNRL1...3B048078
– From VIN 2HKRL1...3H503505 thru 2HKRL1...3H503700

January 27, 2003

Safety Recall: 2003 Odyssey Fuel Tank

(Supersedes D3-008, dated January 10, 2003)

BACKGROUND

Some Odyssey fuel tanks were manufactured with surface imperfections that could allow fuel to leak from the tank. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire. This service bulletin shows you how to inspect the surface of the fuel tank for imperfections that may require tank replacement.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

Some of the affected vehicles are still in dealer inventory. *According to Federal law, these vehicles cannot be sold or leased until they are inspected/ repaired.*

Although the affected VIN range is approximately 8,400 vehicles, only about 3,800 vehicles within that range are affected by this recall. You must verify vehicle eligibility by doing a VIN Status inquiry on the IN before beginning work on any vehicle.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect the fuel tank, and replace it if you find any imperfections other than flow lines or surface scratches. Refer to page 2 for examples of fuel tank imperfections.

PARTS INFORMATION

Fuel Tank:

P/N 17500-S0X-A51, H/C 6552830

Locknut:

P/N 17719-S1A-E01, H/C 5928361

Base Gasket:

P/N 17574-S1A-E01, H/C 5928122

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

In warranty: The normal warranty applies.

| OP# | Description | FRT | Template ID |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 31052B | Inspect fuel tank | 0.3 | 03-008A |
| 31012B | Inspect and replace fuel tank | 1.3 | 03-008B |

Failed Part: P/N 17500-S0X-A51
H/C 6552830

Defect Code: 5CF

Contention Code: L84

Skill Level: Repair Technician

INSPECTION AND REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE: The inspection procedure does not require you to remove the fuel tank or look at the top of it.

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist.
2. Using a clean shop towel soaked in water only, thoroughly clean the fuel tank to remove all dirt and grease.



3. Use a flashlight to inspect the front, bottom, rear, and sides of the fuel tank for bumps, deformities, and irregularities. Refer to page 2 for examples of fuel tank imperfections.
 - If you see any bumps, deformities, or irregularities, go to step 5.
 - If you do not see any bumps, deformities, or irregularities, go to step 4.



NOTE: Flow lines molded into the fuel tank and surface scratches are normal and do not require tank replacement.

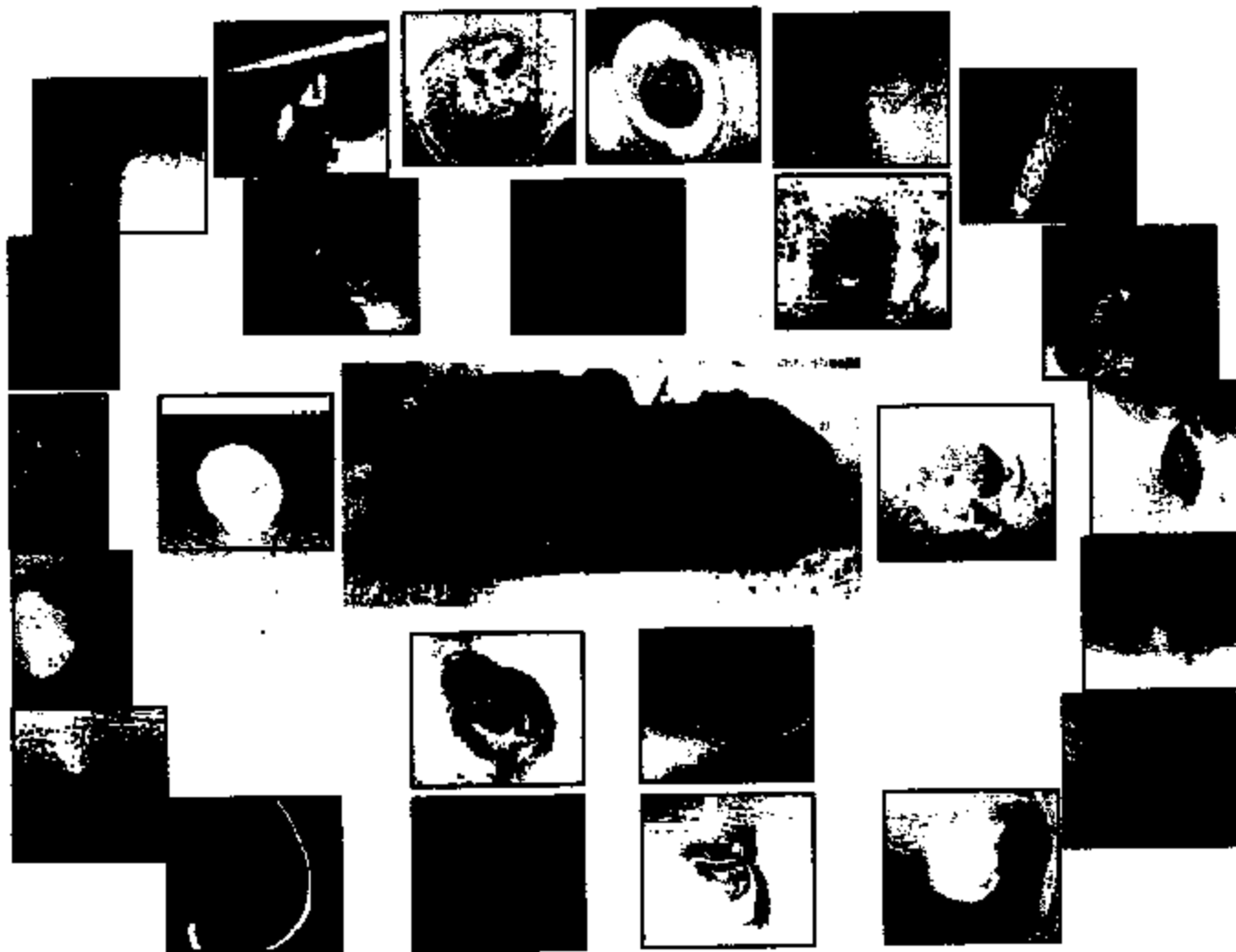
4. Use your fingers to apply even pressure against the front, rear, bottom, and sides of the fuel tank. The hardness of the tank should remain consistent across all areas.
 - If you feel any soft spots, bulges, or slight indentations, go to step 5.
 - If you do not feel any soft spots, bulges, or slight indentations, go to step 6.

5. Replace the fuel tank, the base gasket, and the locknut. Refer to page 11-232 of the 1999-03 Odyssey Service Manual.
6. Center-punch a completion mark above the first character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

5FNRL1XXXXXXXXXX

EXAMPLES OF FUEL TANK IMPERFECTIONS



January 2003

Safety Recall: 2003 Odyssey Fuel Tank

Dear Odyssey Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the fuel tank of certain 2003 Odysseys. Due to a manufacturing problem, some fuel tanks have surface imperfections that could allow fuel to leak from the tank. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda automobile dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle inspected. The dealer will inspect the fuel tank for surface imperfections (the tank does not have to be removed from the vehicle to inspect the potentially affected area). If any imperfections are found, the fuel tank will be replaced. The inspection and fuel tank replacement will be done free of charge. Please plan to leave your vehicle for at least half a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Automobile Customer Service
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A
1818 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2003 Odyssey involved in this recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is incorrect, please fill out and return the included, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

Lessor information.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have questions.

If you have questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call Honda Automobile Customer Service at (800) 999-1009.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division