

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1918 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2748
Phone (310) 783-2000

RECEIVED

2003 JUL 29 P 4:54

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

July 18, 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

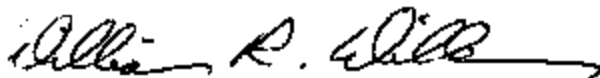
RE: 03V-239

Dear Mr. Person:

In accordance with our campaign to correct a safety defect related to the brake master cylinder in certain 2000 model year Acura 3.5RL automobiles, we are submitting a copy of the dealer bulletin, which also includes 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: 2000 3.5RL – From VIN JH4KA9...YG000013 thru JH4KA9...YC001012

July 18, 2003

Safety Recall: 3.5RL Brake Master Cylinder

BACKGROUND

Some brake master cylinders may have internal corrosion that could reduce braking performance and increase stopping distances. Eventually, corrosion in the master cylinder could cause a complete loss of brakes, which increases the risk of a crash.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

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

Not all vehicles in the VIN range are affected by this recall. Before you repair a vehicle, verify its eligibility by checking at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an /N VIN status inquiry.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Replace the brake master cylinder, and return the master cylinder's brake fluid to American Honda Warranty Parts Inspection.

PARTS INFORMATION

Brake Master Cylinder: P/N 46100-SZ3-A62

Brake Fluid Collection Kit: P/N 46189-SZ3-999
(Contains collection bottle, storage bag, tape, box, and return instructions.)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

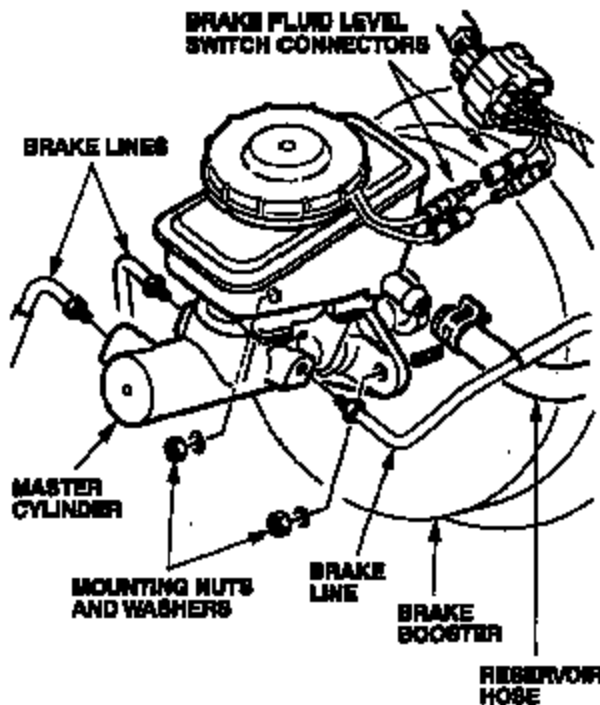
Honda Genuine Heavy Duty Brake Fluid DOT 3:
P/N 08798-9008
(One 12 oz. can is enough to repair one vehicle.)

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

Operation Number: 413127
Flat Rate Time: 1.2 hours
Failed Part: P/N 46100-SZ3-A62
Defect Code: 5BN
Contention Code: L97
Template ID: 03-020A
Skill Level: Repair Technician

REPAIR PROCEDURE

1. Place clean shop towels around the area of the brake master cylinder to absorb any brake fluid spills.
2. Disconnect the two brake fluid level switch connectors from the master cylinder cap.



3. Remove the brake lines from the master cylinder. Insert the plugs from the new master cylinder into the holes.
4. Remove the two master cylinder mounting nuts and washers. Remove the master cylinder from the brake booster.



5. Tilt the master cylinder so the fluid in the reservoir is away from the reservoir hose, then remove the hose from the side of the reservoir. Carefully set aside the master cylinder with the brake fluid in its reservoir.
6. Check the pushrod clearance on the new master cylinder, and adjust it if necessary. Refer to page 19-15 of the 1998-01 3.5FL Service Manual.
7. Install the new master cylinder on the brake booster with the original nuts and washers. Torque the nuts to 13 N·m (9 lb-ft).
8. Install the reservoir hose on the side of the reservoir.
9. Install the brake lines. Torque the connectors to 14 N·m (11 lb-ft).
10. Reconnect the brake fluid level switch connectors to the master cylinder cap.
11. Fill the reservoir with Honda Genuine Heavy Duty Brake Fluid DOT 3, and bleed the brake system. Refer to page 19-8 of the service manual.
12. Check the brake pedal height and free play, and adjust them if necessary. Refer to page 19-5 of the service manual.
13. Remove the shop towels, clean off any spilled brake fluid, rinse the area with water, and blow it dry.
14. Pour the used brake fluid from the original master cylinder into the brake fluid collection bottle through the master cylinder's reservoir hose fitting, then screw the cap on the bottle tightly.
15. Fill out the collection bottle label with your dealer number and the VIN. Then, using the vehicle's maintenance record or your best judgement, check *Yes* or *No* on the label to show whether or not the brake fluid is original.
16. Stick the label on the collection bottle, then have your parts department follow the instructions in the brake fluid collection kit to ship the bottle to American Honda Warranty Parts Inspection (WPI).
NOTE: To avoid warranty claim debits, the used brake fluid from every repair must be returned to WPI.
17. Have your parts department retain the original master cylinder for 30 days after the warranty claim is paid; master cylinders will be randomly requested by WPI.
18. Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

JH4KA9XXYCXXXXXX

July 2003

Safety Recall: 3.5FL Brake Master Cylinder

Dear 3.5FL 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 brake system of certain 2000 3.5FLs. Some brake master cylinders may have internal corrosion that could reduce braking performance and increase stopping distances. Eventually, corrosion in the master cylinder could cause a complete loss of brakes, which increases the risk of a crash.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Acura dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will replace the brake master cylinder, the brake fluid reservoir, and the brake fluid. This repair will be done free of charge. Please plan to leave your vehicle all 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 Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Client Services
Mail Stop 500-2N-7E
1919 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 St., NW
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 2000 3.5FL involved in this recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, 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 any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting an Acura dealer, please call Acura Client Services at (800) 382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this repair may cause you.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division

July 2003

Dear Service Manager:

Honda Motor Co., LTD. is announcing a safety recall campaign for certain 2000 3.5FLs. On affected vehicles, the brake master cylinders may have internal corrosion that could reduce braking performance and increase stopping distances. Eventually, corrosion in the master cylinder could cause a complete loss of brakes, which increases the risk of a crash.

Repair Strategy

The repair is to replace the brake master cylinder and, using a brake fluid collection kit, remove the brake fluid from the master cylinder, and return it to American Honda Warranty Parts Inspection (WPI). To avoid warranty claim debits, the brake fluid from every master cylinder must be returned to WPI. In addition, WPI will request master cylinders at random, so please keep these parts for 30 days after each warranty claim is paid. For repair information, refer to service bulletin, #03-020, *Safety Recall: 3.5FL Brake Master Cylinder*.

Some vehicles affected by this recall may be in your used vehicle inventory. According to Federal law, these vehicles cannot be sold or leased until they are repaired. To see if a vehicle is affected by this recall, verify its eligibility by checking at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an IN VIN status inquiry.

Customer Notification

This safety recall campaign affects 814 vehicles. Customers will be sent a notification of the campaign during the week of July 28.

Parts Information

A quantity of master cylinders and brake fluid collection kits equaling 30 percent of the affected vehicles sold by your dealership will be allocated this month. Additional parts are available through open ordering.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division**