

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

February 24, 2004

04V-086 ① of ④

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On February 12, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a safety-related problem exists in the headlamps of certain 2001-2002 model year Honda Civic and 2000-2002 Insight automobiles. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5.

573.5(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Honda of Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)
Honda of the UK Manufacturing, Ltd. (HUM)

Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
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 Civic Sedan	Certain 2001 model year Certain 2002 model year	To be submitted in the final notification
Honda Civic Coupe	Certain 2001 model year Certain 2002 model year	
Honda Civic Hatchback	Certain 2002 model year	
Honda Insight	Certain 2000 model year Certain 2001 model year Certain 2002 model year	

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

The 2000 model year Insight is the introductory year of a new vehicle. The 2001 model year Civic is the first year of a full model change. Vehicles manufactured prior to the affected vehicles had different construction and design. Vehicles manufactured after the affected vehicles were equipped with tin-plated headlight switch connectors. Tin plating significantly reduces oxidation build-up.

573.5(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approx. 440,000

573.5(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.5(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

The low-beam terminal on the headlight wire harness can overheat and may cause the low beams to fail without warning. Although the high beam position remains operational, an unexpected loss of low beams could result in a crash.

Detail

Oxidation forms on a non-plated copper terminal, increasing resistance and heat. Over time, as oxidation increases, heat eventually melts the low-beam switch coupler. Although the high beam position remains operational, an unexpected loss of low beams could result in a crash. With more than 800,000 vehicles operating in the worldwide market with the affected switch, no accidents or injuries have occurred.

573.5(c)(6)

Chronology:

Sep. 6, 2001	HMC conducted a headlight switch safety recall in Japan for Logo and Insight models. The updated switch connector was tin-plated for increased durability. These models are configured for right-hand steering.
November 2001	HMC adopted the updated headlight switch to all similar models.
Dec. 3, 2001	AHM issued the first report about a low beam failure in a 2001 Civic.
Dec. 12, 2001	HMC received the report and initiated an investigation.

573.5(c)(6)

Chronology:

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| Dec. 2001 to May 2002 | HMC investigated actual parts from the market. AHM continued to watch the market. |
| Jun. 2002 to Jun. 2003 | HMC conducted reoccurrence tests and reconfirmed the performance of the switch with and without the tin plating. HMC continued to investigate actual parts from the market. |
| Jul. 2003 to Jan. 2004 | HMC investigated the cause of the different occurrence rates between factories and the future occurrence rate for all models. HMC also investigated the reasons why there were no occurrences in the Canadian market and whether or not accessory fog lamps in Japan were a contributing factor. |
| Feb. 12, 2004 | HMC ended the investigation and conducted a review of all materials. HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists. |
| Feb. 19, 2004 | AHM notified NHTSA by telephone. |

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 headlight switch and coupler for signs of heat damage. If heat damage is present, the dealer will replace the switch and coupler. If no heat damage is present, the dealer will replace the headlight switch and one mating pin in the coupler. This work will be done free of charge.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

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| The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: | Mar. 29, 2004 |
| The estimated date to notify dealers via e-mail: | Feb. 24, 2004 |
| The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers: | Mar. 19, 2004 |
| The estimated date of completion of the notification: | Apr. 15, 2004 |

573.5(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

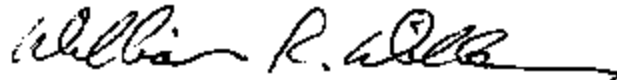
573.5(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke



American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
 1919 Torrance Boulevard
 Torrance, CA 90501-2746
 Phone (310) 793-2000

February 27, 2004

Recall ID: 04V-086

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The VIN range and manufacturing date information below supplements our 573 notification dated February 24, 2004 for the recall campaign referenced above.

573.5(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>	
Honda Civic Sedan	Certain 2001 model year	1HGES182*1L000011 – 1HGES165*1L078373 Mar. 30, 2000 to Aug. 27, 2001	
		1HGES267*1L000001 – 1HGES267*1L078073 Mar. 21, 2000 to Aug. 29, 2001	
		1HGEN284*1L000001 – 1HGEN284*1L000803 Jun. 14, 2000 to Jul. 26, 2001	
		2HGES165*1H500108 – 2HGES166*1H620493 Aug. 29, 2000 to Aug. 30, 2001	
		2HGES267*1H600049 – 2HGES267*1H619891 Aug. 28, 2000 to Aug. 29, 2001	
		JHMES152*1S000012 – JHMES165*1S012585 Jun. 28, 2000 to Jul. 13, 2001	
		JHMES267*1S000009 – JHMES267*1S006318 Jul. 12, 2000 to Jul. 13, 2001	
		Certain 2002 model year	1HGES165*2L000002 – 1HGES165*2L024203 May 24, 2001 to Dec. 4, 2001
			1HGES267*2L000001 – 1HGES267*2L028089 May 24, 2001 to Dec. 4, 2001
			1HGEN285*2L000001 – 1HGEN285*2L000181 Jun. 21, 2001 to Oct. 17, 2001
2HGES165*2H500005 – 2HGES165*2H530522 Aug. 23, 2001 to Dec. 4, 2001			
		2HGES267*2H500395 – 2HGES267*2H530552 Aug. 30, 2001 to Dec. 4, 2001	

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573.5(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Civic Sedan	Certain 2002 model year (continued)	JHMES166*2S000004 – JHMES166*2S004507 Jul. 26, 2001 to Nov. 5, 2001
		JHMES267*2S000002 – JHMES268*2S002838 Jul. 26, 2001 to Nov. 1, 2001
Honda Civic Coupe	Certain 2001 model year	1HGEM229*1L000001 – 1HGEM212*1L125029 Apr. 13, 2000 to Sept. 10, 2001
	Certain 2002 model year	1HGEM213*2L000001 – 1HGEM215*2L024169 Jun. 5, 2001 to Dec. 5, 2001
Honda Civic Hatchback	Certain 2002 model year	SHHEP335*2U300118 – SHHEP335*2U300222 Dec. 5 - 21, 2001
Honda Insight	Certain 2000 model year	JHMZE137*YT000034 – JHMZE137*YT005604 Oct. 2, 1999 to Sept. 28, 2000
	Certain 2001 model year	JHMZE147*1T000001 – JHMZE147*1T003394 Sept. 26, 2000 to Aug. 29, 2001
	Certain 2002 model year	JHMZE137*2T000001 Apr. 27, 2001

If you have any questions, please contact me at (310) 763-3280.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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