

HONDA

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

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

04V-257
(3 pages)

May 27, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On May 20, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined the existence of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment" in the motor vehicles listed below. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.8.

573.8(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Manufacturer's agent: William R. Wilton
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Name of tail lamp manufacturer: Koto Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

573.8(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda S2000	Certain 2000 models	JHMAP114*YT000049 - JHMAP114*YT007115 June 8, 1999 to April 5, 2000

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

The 2000 model year was the introductory year of the S2000. The affected lenses of the side marker lamp and side reflex reflector in the tail lamp assembly were identified based on manufacturing records. The VIN range and manufacturing dates are inclusive of all vehicles that could potentially have a noncomplying lens installed by the factory.

573.8(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 7,067

573.8(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the noncompliance: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Noncompliance description:

Summary

The lens of the side marker lamp and side reflex reflector in the tail lamp assembly were manufactured with incorrect dye that, under the circumstances of use, does not retain its color over time and, therefore, does not comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment."

Detail

The lens of the side marker lamp and side reflex reflector in the tail lamp assembly were manufactured using Diazole-base dye instead of Perinone-base dye. The chemical unit of Diazole-base dye, when used in the circumstances of the S2000, is more susceptible to UV and high temperature decomposition. As a result, the red color could fade, which does not comply with the deterioration requirement of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment."

573.6(c)(7)

Determination of noncompliance:

On June 17, 2003, HMC received a report that the color of the tail lamp side marker lens had faded. HMC initiated an investigation. According to Koito's accelerated test, the lens was projected to comply with the deterioration requirement of FMVSS 108. On May 14, 2004, Honda and Koito met with NHTSA to discuss compliance implications. In accordance with NHTSA's opinion, HMC determined the existence of a noncompliance.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the noncompliance:

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will replace all affected tail lamp assemblies, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Jun. 4, 2004
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Jun. 18, 2004
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Jul. 7, 2004
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Jul. 7, 2004

573.6(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.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

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

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573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

The number will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ka