

# HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748  
Phone (310) 763-2000

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NYS-215

September 2, 2004

2004 SEP -8 P 4 26

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

04 V-429

(3 pages)

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 August 26, 2004, 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.

573.6(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)

**Manufacturer's agent:** William R. Willen  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Acura TSX	Certain 2004 model year	JH4CL958*4C000070 to JH4CL958*4C040281 Jan. 15, 2003 to Jun. 29, 2004

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

The TSX was a new model introduction for 2004 in the U.S. market. The affected VIN range reflects vehicles manufactured prior to the installation of corrugated plastic tubing over the trunk harness.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 40,060

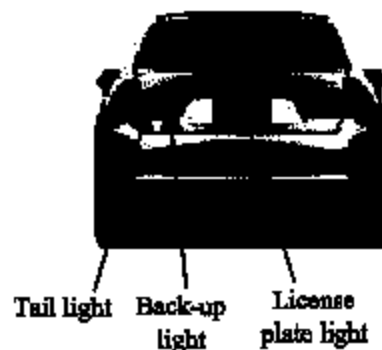
573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** About 0.5%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

A wire harness located in the trunk hinge area is not adequately protected and, over time, could be damaged when the trunk is opened and closed. A damaged harness can cause a blown fuse (short) or an open circuit; either results in a loss of license plate light, back-up light and/or taillight function. All affected lights are located on the trunk lid. The portion of the light assembly located on the rear quarter panel, which includes a taillight, a brake light and a turn signal, is not affected. Loss of a taillight could reduce visibility and increase the risk of a vehicle crash.



573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Apr. 18, 2004 | During internal testing, HMC discovered the loss of rear lamp function due to a damaged harness and initiated an investigation. |
| Aug. 26, 2004 | HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists.   |

573.6(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 Acura dealer. The dealer will inspect the harness. If any damage is found, the harness will be replaced, free of charge. If no damage is found, the dealer will install corrugated plastic tubing over the harness to prevent damage. Reimbursement will not be necessary because the affected vehicles are still covered under the new vehicle warranty.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

<b>Estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:</b>	Sept. 2, 2004
<b>Estimated date to provide preliminary service bulletin to dealers:</b>	Sept. 2, 2004
<b>Estimated date to provide final service bulletin to dealers:</b>	TBD
<b>Estimated date to begin mailing notifications to owners:</b>	Oct. 1, 2004
<b>Estimated date of completion of the notification of owners:</b>	Oct. 12, 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 will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:**

P45.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

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