

November 17, 2004

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

04V-541
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On November 10, 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 of Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)

Manufacturer's agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Acura MDX	Certain 2005 model year	2HNYD18**5H505428 - 2HNYD18**5H506268 Oct. 27, 2004 to Nov. 1, 2004
Honda Pilot	Certain 2005 model year	2HKYF18**5H516371 - 2HKYF18**5H517778 Oct. 27, 2004 to Nov. 1, 2004

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

The affected vehicles were identified based on manufacturing records. The VINs and manufacturing dates are inclusive of all vehicles that could potentially have an affected fuel tank.

573.6(c)(3)
Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 61

573.6(c)(4)
Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)
Defect description:

Summary

Some fuel tanks were improperly manufactured and do not meet material strength specifications. In a collision, the fuel tank may be damaged and leak fuel. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

Detail

The fuel tank molding process uses heaters to maintain proper material temperature. During manufacturing, one of the heaters failed, resulting in some fuel tanks being molded with insufficient material thickness. The affected fuel tanks do not meet Honda specifications. Honda has not confirmed that the affected tanks could fail in use. However, due to the safety aspect of a potential fuel leak, we are conducting a safety recall. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

573.6(c)(6)
Chronology:

Oct. 28, 2004	During factory testing, a fuel tank failure occurred. HCM initiated an investigation with Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC).
Nov. 10, 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 were notified by telephone and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized dealer. The dealer replaced the fuel tank, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

Estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Nov. 10, 2004
Estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	NA
Estimated date to begin mailing notifications to owners:	NA
Estimated date of completion of the notification of owners:	NA

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

Dealers were instructed to use the shop manual instructions for fuel tank replacement. A service bulletin was not issued. A customer letter will not be necessary for the reason described in 573.6(c)(8)(i).

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

Only three vehicles have been sold, and the fuel tanks have been replaced on all three vehicles.

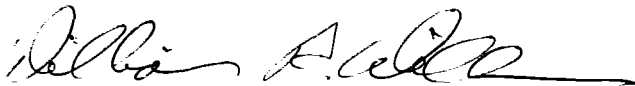
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

None. All vehicles have been repaired, which makes this recall 100 percent complete.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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