

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-550  
(4 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 the U.K. Mfg, Ltd. (HUM)

**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>  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Honda Civic Si    | Certain 2004 model year | SHHEP33**4U505473 - SHHEP33**4U505890<br>Apr. 6, 2004 to Apr. 28, 2004 |
|                   | Certain 2005 model year | SHHEP33**5U500148 - SHHEP33**5U500369<br>Aug.12, 2004 to Aug. 17, 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 incorrect seat belt anchor washer.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:**

416

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** About 30%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Summary**

Some front seat belt anchors may have been installed with an incorrect washer, which could restrict anchor movement. As a result, the seat belt may be improperly positioned for certain occupants. An improperly positioned belt could increase the risk of injury in a crash.

**Detail**

Some front seat belt anchors may have been installed with an incorrect washer. The incorrect washer could restrict anchor movement. This restriction could cause the seat belt to be improperly positioned for certain occupants. Improper belt position could reduce the protective capability of the seat belts and pretensioners in certain crash conditions, thereby increasing the risk of injury to front seat occupants. No incidents have been reported. The seat belt complies with all requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection," when tested in the failed position.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Aug. 17, 2004 | A factory inspection identified restricted anchor movement in U.S. market vehicles. HUM initiated an investigation with Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC). |
| Oct. 5, 2004  | Honda conducted FMVSS 208 compliance testing with the anchor in the failed position. The seat belt complied with all requirements of FMVSS 208.      |
| 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 will be notified by mail. The mailing will include instructions for an owner inspection of anchor movement. Owners will be asked to return a card to Honda confirming that their anchors are not affected. Owners with affected anchors will be directed to a dealer for the repair. Dealer inspection will be recommended if the owner is not comfortable with performing the inspection. The dealer will inspect the front seat belt anchors for restricted movement. If an anchor does not rotate freely, the dealer will replace the washer with a countermeasure washer. The inspection and any necessary repairs will be performed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:</b>      | Nov. 18, 2004 |
| <b>Estimated date to provide preliminary service bulletin to dealers:</b> | Nov. 19, 2004 |
| <b>Estimated date to provide final service bulletin to dealers:</b>       | Dec. 3, 2004  |
| <b>Estimated date to begin mailing notifications to owners:</b>           | Dec. 6, 2004  |
| <b>Estimated date of completion of the notification of owners:</b>        | Dec. 6, 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.

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein  
November 17, 2004  
Page 4

573.6(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:**

P55.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William R. Willen".

William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke