

December 3, 2004

Dear Service Manager:

Honda Motor Co., LTD has announced a safety recall campaign for all 2004 Accord L4 4-door vehicles and some 2005 Accord L4 4-door vehicles.

In NHTSA R&D testing that subjects vehicles to conditions more severe than current crash-test standards, a 2004 Accord experienced a tear in the driver's airbag during deployment. Even though the Accord complies with all current requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection," Honda is conducting a recall to resolve NHTSA's concerns and minimize any potential risk to motor vehicle safety.

Customer Notification

We will begin mailing notifications to all owners the week of December 6.

Affected Vehicles

For the affected VINs, refer to Service Bulletin 04-072, *Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag*. Not all vehicles within the VIN ranges are affected by this recall. Before beginning work on a vehicle, verify its eligibility by checking at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an iN VIN status inquiry.

Some vehicles affected by this recall are in your new vehicle inventory. **According to federal law, these vehicles cannot be sold or leased until they are repaired.** To see if a vehicle is affected by this recall, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

Repair Strategy

The repair is to install an airbag protector between the driver's airbag and the airbag cover. For repair and warranty information, refer to S/B 04-072.

Parts Information

In November, parts were sent out to cover all stop-sale vehicles. This week, a second parts allocation was made to cover 25 percent of affected customer vehicles. On December 8, additional parts will be available through open ordering.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Automobile Division



Applies To: See VEHICLES AFFECTED

December 3, 2004

Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag

(Supersedes preliminary service bulletin 04-072, dated November 19, 2004)

BACKGROUND

In NHTSA R&D testing that subjects vehicles to conditions more severe than current crash-test standards, a 2004 Accord experienced a tear in the driver's airbag during deployment. Even though the Accord complies with all current requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection," Honda is conducting a recall to resolve NHTSA's concerns and minimize any potential risk to motor vehicle safety.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

2004 Accord L4 4-door: ALL

2005 Accord L4 4-door:

From VIN 1HGCM5...5A000005
thru 1HGCM5...5A023044

From VIN JHMCM5...5C000001
thru JHMCM5...5C005196

From VIN 3HGCM5...5G700001
thru 3HGCM5...5G700722

Before beginning work, verify that the vehicle is eligible by checking at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown on your campaign responsibility report.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on an iN VIN status inquiry.

In addition to these verification items, check for a punch mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means this safety recall campaign has already been completed.

Some vehicles affected by this recall may be in your new or used vehicle inventory. **According to Federal law, these vehicles cannot be sold or leased until they are repaired.** To see if a vehicle is affected by this recall, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of this recall. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install an airbag protector between the driver's airbag and the airbag cover.

PARTS INFORMATION

Driver's Airbag Protector Kit:
(Contains one protector and two T-30 Torx bolts)
P/N 04770-SDA-308, H/C 7965973

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

Operation Number: 752106
Flat Rate Time: 0.3 hour
Failed Part: P/N 90170-SHJ-A00
H/C 7734379
Defect Code: 5FG00
Symptom Code: P5400
Template ID: 04-072A
Skill Level: Repair Technician

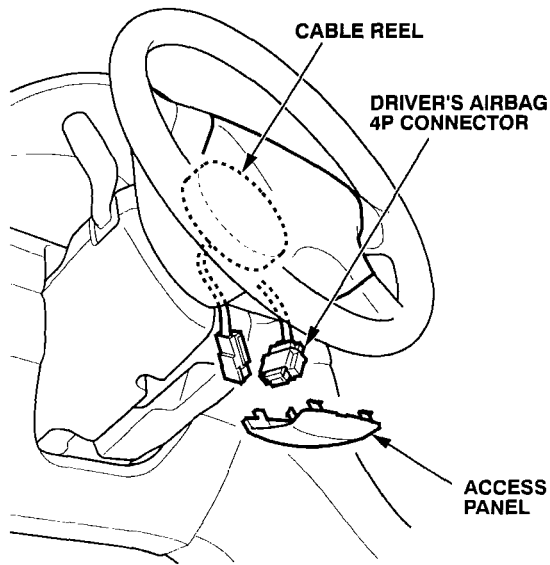
REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE:

- Before doing any work, review the SRS component locations, precautions, and procedures in section 23 of the 2003-05 Accord Service Manual.
 - Make sure you have the anti-theft code for the audio unit and, if equipped, the navigation system.
1. Write down your customer's radio station presets.
 2. Disconnect the negative cable from the battery, and wait at least 3 minutes.

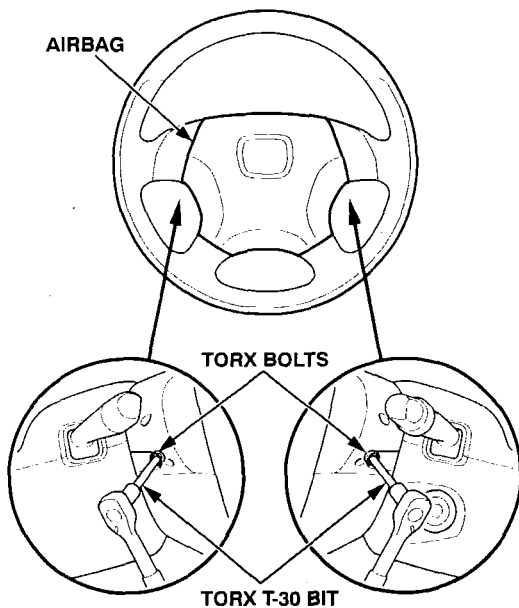


- Remove the access panel from the steering wheel, then disconnect the driver's airbag 4P connector from the cable reel.

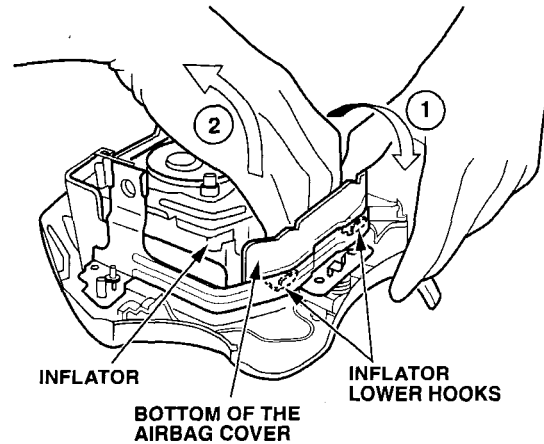


- Using a Torx T-30 bit, remove and discard the two airbag assembly bolts from each side of the steering wheel.

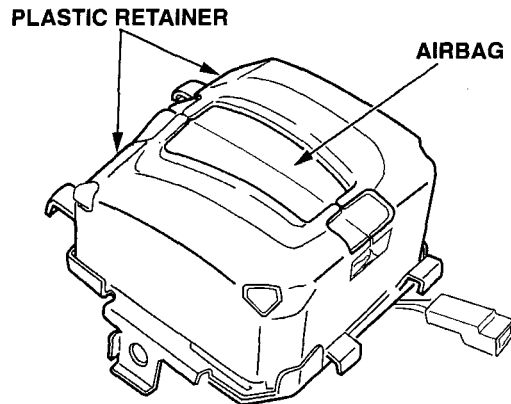
NOTE: The Torx bolts are installed with a thread lock material. To avoid stripping or breaking off the bolt heads, use a high-quality, 50 mm (or longer), solid head T-30 Torx bit. Make sure the bit is square in the bolt. Apply constant inward and turning pressure on the Torx bit while removing the bolt. *Do not use a worn bit, and do not use an air tool.*



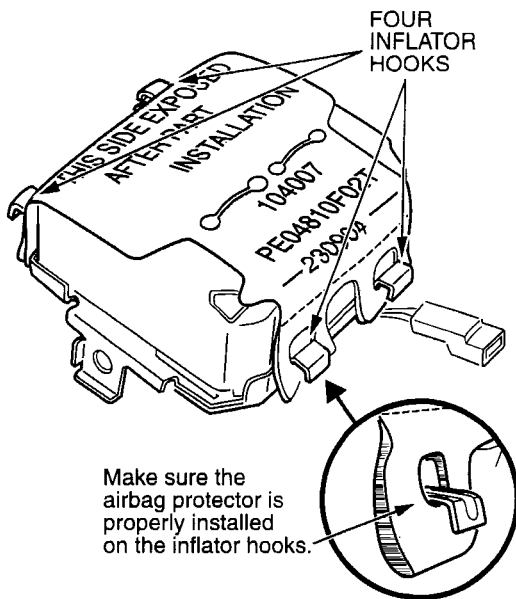
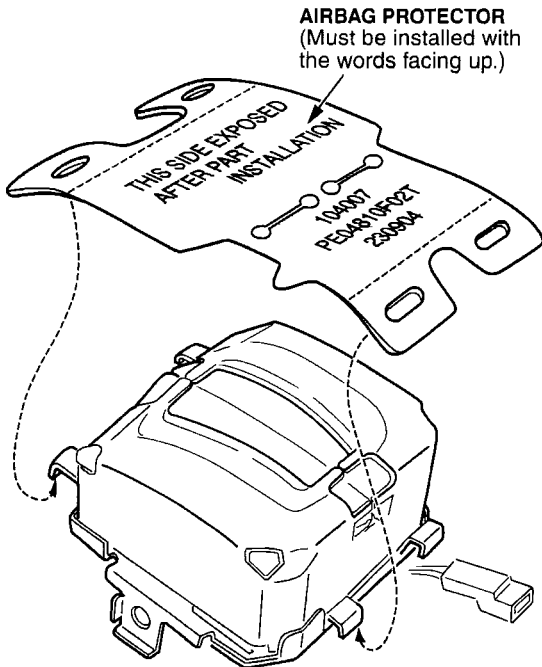
- Disconnect the horn switch 1P connector, and remove the airbag.
- Place a clean shop towel on your workbench. Lay the airbag face down on the towel.
- Remove the airbag cover from the inflator:
 - Pull the bottom of the cover away from the inflator, and insert your fingers between the cover and the bottom of the inflator.
 - Release the inflator lower hooks, and remove the cover.
 - Make sure there is no debris on or around the cover and the inflator.



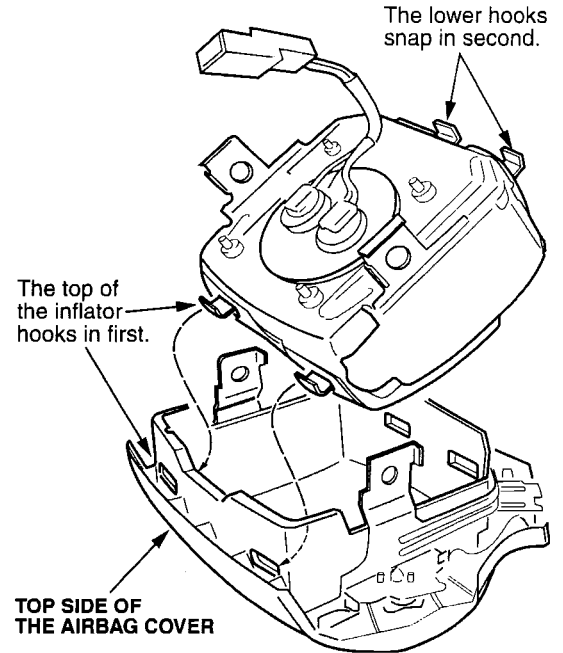
- Turn the inflator over (metal side down) to expose the airbag and its plastic retainer.



9. Attach the airbag protector to the inflator:
 - Make sure the protector is not folded or wrinkled. If it is, use another one.
 - Set the protector on the airbag plastic retainer.
 - Attach the two upper holes of the protector to the inflator upper hooks.
 - Stretch the protector over the retainer, and attach its two lower holes to the inflator lower hooks.
 - Make sure the protector is securely attached to all four inflator hooks.

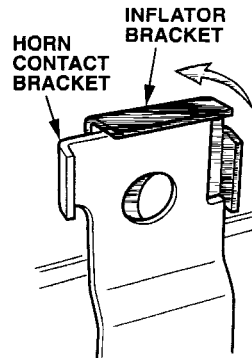


10. Turn the inflator over (airbag side down), and reinstall it into the airbag cover:
 - Make sure there is no debris inside the cover.
 - Insert the top of the inflator into the cover, and attach the upper hooks.
 - Press the bottom of the inflator into the cover, and attach the lower hooks.

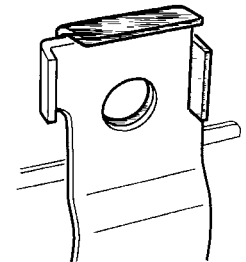


11. Align the inflator and the horn contact brackets, and make sure the horn springs move freely.

BRACKETS NOT ALIGNED



BRACKETS ALIGNED



12. Connect the horn switch 1P connector, and reinstall the airbag with new Torx bolts. Torque the bolts to 9.8 N·m (7.2 lb-ft).
13. Connect the driver's airbag 4P connector to the cable reel, then reinstall the access panel to the steering wheel.

14. Reconnect the negative cable to the battery, turn the ignition switch to ON (II), and watch the SRS indicator.
 - If the indicator comes on for about 6 seconds, and then goes off, go to step 15.
 - If the indicator does not come on or stays on, troubleshoot the SRS (see section 23 of the 2003–05 Accord Service Manual).
15. Make sure the horn works.
16. Enter the anti-theft code for the audio unit and, if equipped, the navigation system.
17. Enter you customer's radio station presets. On non-navi vehicles, set the clock.
18. Center-punch a completion mark above the third character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

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1HGXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Example of Customer Letter

December 2004

Safety Recall: Driver's Airbag

Dear Accord Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd., has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004–2005 Accords. Your vehicle's steering wheel is equipped with a front airbag to protect the driver in severe crashes. In specific types of crashes, the surface of the driver's airbag may come into contact with the inside surface of the airbag cover and create a tear in the airbag. A torn airbag may not offer the same level of protection, thereby increasing the risk of injury to the driver.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will install protective fabric between the airbag and its cover. This work will be done free of charge. Please plan to leave your vehicle for at least half a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Automobile Customer Service
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2004–2005 Accord involved in this recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid Information Change Card. We will then update our records.

Lessor Information.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call Honda Automobile Customer Service at (800) 999-1009, and select menu option #2.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Automobile Division