

HONDA

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

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NVS-215

May 13, 2005

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

OSE-035 (3/4s)

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

Dear Mr. Medford:

On May 6, 2005, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the accessory trailer harness kit sold for the vehicles described 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 Access America, Inc (HAA)

Manufacturer's agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
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 Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Element	Certain 2005 model year	5J6YH****5L000498 – 5J6YH****5L016013 Dec. 20, 2004 to Apr. 29, 2005

Identification of affected vehicle equipment:

<u>Component Name</u>	<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>
Trailer Harness Kit	08L91-SCV-102	Nov. 24, 2004 to Dec. 18, 2004

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

The affected kit was designed specifically for the 2005 model year Element. The harness kits manufactured for the 2003 and 2004 model year Element have a different design.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of trailer hitch kits sold to dealers: 753

Notice will be sent to all owners of vehicles potentially affected: 14,967

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Approx. 5%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The wire harness of the trailer hitch kit has an incorrectly wired connector. As a result, the trailer brake lamps and turn signal lamps could operate incorrectly, or a fuse could blow causing a sudden loss of brake and turn signal lamp function. Improper signaling or a loss of trailer warning lamp function without warning could cause a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Mar. 30, 2005	AHM received a report regarding an incorrectly wired trailer wire harness. HAA initiated an investigation.
Apr. 20, 2005	AHM received the actual failed parts.
May 4, 2005	HAA complete the investigation.
May 6, 2005	HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be contacted by mail. Owners who have purchased Honda's accessory trailer hitch will be asked to take their vehicle to a Honda dealer. The dealer will correct the connector wiring, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

Date of e-mail notification to dealers:	May 6, 2005
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	May 20, 2005
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	May 23, 2005
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	May 24, 2005

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.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:
P78.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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