

**HONDA**

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

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2005 JAN 31 P 4: 53  
DEFECT INVESTIGATION

05 V-025  
(5 pages)

January 27, 2005

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 January 20, 2005, 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)  
Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (HAM)

**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/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord Sedan	Certain 1999 model year	1HGCF8***XA092950 – 1HGCF8***XA163632 Feb. 18, 1999 to Jul. 23, 1999
		1HGCG5***XA087584 – 1HGCG5***XA165179 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
		JHMCG5***XC000001 – JHMCG5***XC061493 May 8, 1998 to Jul. 2, 1999
		1HGCG6***XA087764 – 1HGCG6***XA165178 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 28, 1999
		JHMCG6***XC000001 – JHMCG6***XC036728 Jul. 9, 1998 to Jul. 2, 1999
1HGCG1***XA023144 – 1HGCG1***XA068789 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 29, 1999		

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord Sedan (cont.)	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCF8***YA000003 – 1HGCF8***YA000566 Mar. 23, 1999 to Jul. 28, 1999
		JHMCF8***YC000002 – JHMCF8***YC000638 May 13, 1999 to Jul. 1, 2000.
		1HGCG5***YA000073 – 1HGCG5***YA002400 Jul. 27, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
		JHMCG5***YC000001 – JHMCG5***YC042925 Apr. 12, 1999 to Jul. 7, 2000
	Certain 2001 model year	1HGCG6***YA000004 – 1HGCG6***YA002306 Mar. 23, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
		JHMCG6***YC000003 – JHMCG6***YC038066 Feb. 25, 1999 to Jul. 6, 2000
		1HGCG1***YA000001 – 1HGCG1***YA002797 Feb. 25, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
		JHMCF8***1C000013 – JHMCF8*1A000824 Jul. 12, 2000 to Jul. 3, 2001
	Certain 2002 model year	JHMCG5***1C000002 – JHMCG5***1C033283 Feb. 23, 2000 to Jul. 5, 2001
		JHMCG6***1C000001 – JHMCG6***1C027821 Apr. 17, 2000 to Jul. 7, 2001
JHMCG1***1C000001 – JHMCG1***1C000004 Jul. 3, 2000		
JHMCF8****2C000026 – JHMCF8***2C000598 Jul. 30, 2001 to Jun. 5, 2002		
Honda Accord Coupe	Certain 1999 model year	JHMCG5***2C000001 – JHMCG5***2C035622 Jul. 4, 2001 to Jun. 27, 2002
		JHMCG6***2C000001 – JHMCG6***2C030241 Jul. 4, 2001 to Jul. 2, 2002
	Certain 2000 model year	1HGCG3***XA012418 – 1HGCG3***XA027975 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 29, 1999
		1HGCG2***XA015070 – 1HGCG2***XA032647 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
		1HGCG3***YA000001 – 1HGCG3***YA000009 Mar. 10, 1999 to Apr. 15 1999
		1HGCG2***YA000001 – 1HGCG2***YA000017 Mar. 4, 1999 to Jul. 15, 1999

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Prelude	All 1997 model year	JHMBB62**VC000001 – JHMBB62**VC016486 Apr. 23, 1996 to Aug. 1, 1997
	All 1998 model year	JHMBB62**WC000005 – JHMBB62**WC015969 Aug. 6, 1997 to Aug. 3, 1998
	All 1999 model year	JHMBB62**XC000002 – JHMBB62**XC011380 May 8, 1998 to Jul. 3, 1999
	All 2000 model year	JHMBB62**YC000009 – JHMBB62**YC010162 Aug. 3, 1999 to Jul. 31, 2000
	All 2001 model year	JHMBB62**1C000025 – JHMBB62**1C012414 Sept. 1, 2000 to Nov. 5, 2001
Acura TL	Certain 1999 model year	19UUA5***XA023687 – 19UUA5***XA050064 Feb. 16, 1999 to Jul. 30, 1999
	Certain 2000 model year	19UUA5***YA000001 – 19UUA5***YA000063 Dates to be determined

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

Some ignition switches contain an interlock component from the Japan supplier that is outside the specification parameters. The affected vehicle ranges include all vehicles that may have received an ignition switch with the defective component.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 486,659

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** 0.05% or less

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Summary**

The interlock operation of the ignition switch may not function properly, making it possible to turn the ignition key to the "OFF" position and remove the key without shifting the transmission to Park.

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Detail**

The interlock is intended to prevent the removal of the ignition key unless the gear selector lever is in the Park position. The interlock lever may be improperly dimensioned and may not engage the inner collar, which blocks the rotation of the ignition switch. In this instance, it may be possible to turn the ignition key to the "OFF" position and remove the key. If the driver does not shift to Park before removing the key and fails to engage the parking brake, the vehicle could roll and a crash could occur.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Oct. 15, 2004	AHM received NHTSA defect petition letter DP04-006, and HAM initiated an investigation.
Jan. 20, 2005	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 Honda dealer. The dealer will perform an inspection procedure that confirms interlock function.

- A. All vehicles will be updated with a redesigned interlock lever.
- B. The details of repairs to vehicles in which the key can be removed when the shift lever is not in the Park position are being finalized.

The inspection and repairs will be performed free of charge for all affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:** Jan. 28, 2005

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:** TBD

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** TBD

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** TBD

573.6(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin 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:**

P68, P69.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Willen by [Name] Esq.". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

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