

HONDA

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

February 2, 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 27, 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 Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC (HMA)

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 Odyssey	Certain 2005 model year	5FNRL384**5B404204 – 5FNRL384*5B405117
Honda Pilot	Certain 2005 model year	5FNYP18**5B016932 – 5FNYP18**5B017484 Jan. 14 - 22, 2005

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

The affected vehicle identification was based on manufacturing records. The VINs and manufacturing dates are inclusive of all vehicles that could potentially contain the defect.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected:	158	Dealer inventory
	<u>45</u>	Sold
	203	

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Approx. 2%

573.6(c)(5)

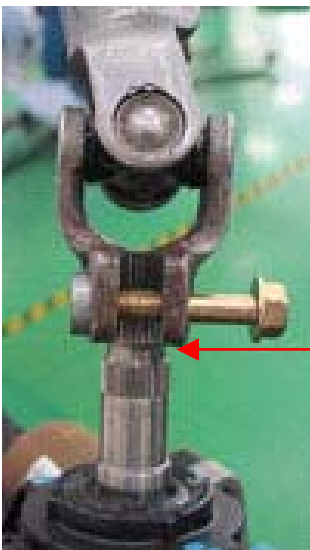
Defect description:

Summary

The steering column may be incorrectly assembled, which could result in a loss of steering control. A loss of steering control can cause a crash without warning.

Detail

A universal joint connects the steering column to the steering gearbox. The bolt that fastens the joint to the gearbox shaft may be mispositioned. A retention groove in the shaft positions the bolt to securely fasten the joint. If the bolt does not engage the shaft at this groove, the column could separate from the gearbox. If separation occurs, steering control will be lost without warning, which can cause a crash.



INCORRECT ASSEMBLY SHOWN.
Bolt should be aligned with the retention groove.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

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|---------------|--|
| Jan. 20, 2005 | During factory testing of an Odyssey, a steering malfunction occurred. HMA initiated an investigation. |
| Jan. 23, 2005 | HMA's investigation found two vehicles with incorrect installation of the center steering shaft yoke bolt. |
| Jan. 24, 2005 | HMA investigated manufacturing records and found that a new associate trainee assembled all four vehicles identified with mispositioned steering yoke bolts. HMA informed AHM. |
| Jan. 25, 2005 | AHM contacted all dealers who received a potentially affected vehicle, instructing them to stop sale. AHM also asked dealers to call any customer who purchased one of the vehicles and instruct them not to drive it. |
| Jan. 27, 2005 | HMC 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 stop driving their vehicle. All vehicles will be towed to a Honda dealership for inspection. The center shaft yoke bolt was removed to determine whether it was installed correctly. If the bolt was not installed correctly, the parts will be examined for damage and replaced if necessary. The joint will be reassembled in the correct position. The inspection and any necessary repairs were performed free of charge for all affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

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| Date of e-mail notification to dealers: | Jan. 25, 2005 |
| The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: | NA |
| Date dealers began notifying owners by telephone: | Jan. 25, 2005 |
| The estimated date of completion of the notification: | Feb. 2, 2005 |

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

Repair instructions were e-mailed to dealer who received a potentially affected vehicle. A service bulletin was not issued.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

All 45 owners were notified by telephone.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

P70.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

William R. Willen by [Signature] Esq.

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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