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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

OSV-344

(3 pages)

July 28, 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 July 21, 2005, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the 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	5FNRL38***5B000146 – 5FNRL38**5B075678 Jul. 6, 2004 to Mar. 7, 2005
		5FNRL38***5B400014 – 5FNRL38**5B409694 Oct. 14, 2004 to Mar. 4, 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: 85,154

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

Some frontal airbag system impact sensors were insufficiently sealed during manufacturing. If specific circumstances exist, particularly salt-water intrusion, corrosion may occur and eventually cause a short-circuit. If one or both sensors fail, the SRS warning lamp will illuminate. Impact sensor failure could cause a delay in or loss of frontal airbag deployment, which can increase the risk of injury in a frontal crash.

Detail

The frontal airbag system has two external impact sensors mounted on each flat surface of the right- and left-front side frame under the headlight. Some impact sensors were insufficiently sealed during manufacturing. The unique sensor mounting location and orientation on the Odyssey may expose the sensors to salt-water intrusion and corrosion. Corroded sensors could short-circuit internally, illuminating the SRS warning lamp to indicate a system problem.

If only one sensor fails, front airbag deployment will be delayed in a frontal offset collision occurring on the failed sensor's side, but deployment will not be delayed in a frontal offset collision on the other side or a flat barrier collision. If both sensors fail, the front airbags will not deploy in any frontal crash. Delayed front airbag deployment or non-deployment can increase the risk of injury in a frontal crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Jan. 19, 2005 HMA initiated an investigation.

Jul. 21, 2005 HMA completed the investigation, and HMC 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 contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda dealer. The dealer will replace the front impact sensors, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Jul. 29, 2005
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: Jul. 30, 2005
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Aug. 29, 2005
The estimated date of completion of the notification: Sept. 2, 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:

P80.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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