



**Safety Recall: Front Damper Spring Corrosion**

(Supersedes 05-038, dated December 13, 2006, to revise the information marked by the black bars)

**REVISION SUMMARY**

Under PARTS INFORMATION, part numbers were added.

**BACKGROUND**

Some front suspension damper springs have insufficient corrosion protection. In areas where road salt\* is used, these damper springs may be susceptible to corrosion. Over time, excessive corrosion can cause spring failure. In some cases, a broken spring could puncture a front tire, which increases the risk of a crash.

\*Road salt is commonly used in an area known as the “salt belt.” As shown in the shaded area of the map, the salt belt includes these states: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C.



**CLIENT NOTIFICATION**

All owners of affected vehicles were sent a notification of this campaign in October 2005. An example of the client notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

Not all vehicles within the VIN ranges are affected. **Only those vehicles that were sold or currently registered in areas where road salt is used are affected by this campaign.** To verify vehicle eligibility, you must check at least one of these items:

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

In addition to the bulleted verification items, check for a punch mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means the vehicle has already been repaired.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your 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 campaign, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION**

Replace the front damper springs.

**PARTS INFORMATION**

Front Damper Spring (two required):

P/N 51401-S3V-305

Self-locking Nut (12 mm) (two required):

P/N 90213-SJ6-004

**WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION**

Operation Number: 414121

Flat Rate Time: 2.4 hours

Failed Part: P/N 51401-S3V-A03

Defect Code: 5B400

Symptom Code: P9200

Template ID: 05-038A

Skill Level: Repair Technician



**CLIENT INFORMATION:** The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by “do-it-yourselfers,” and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Acura automobile dealer.

## REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTE: Front damper replacement *is not* included in this campaign. But, as a convenience to your clients, let them know you can replace the dampers, along with the damper springs, for just the cost of the new dampers (no labor charge).

1. Replace the front suspension damper springs:
  - Refer to page 18-17 of the *2001–02 MDX Service Manual*, or
  - Online, enter keyword **DAMPER** and select **Front Damper/Spring Replacement** from the list.

NOTE: If you break either front stabilizer link while replacing the springs, replace both links (use P/N 06513-S0X-999, Front Stabilizer Link Kit).

2. Center-punch a completion mark above the fourth character of the engine compartment VIN.

Center-punch here.

2HNYD1XXXXXXXXXX

*Example of Client Letter*

October 2005

### **Safety Recall: MDX Front Suspension Damper Springs**

Dear MDX 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 related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001–02 MDXs. Some front suspension damper springs have insufficient corrosion protection and, in areas where road salt is used, may be susceptible to corrosion. Over time, excessive corrosion can cause spring failure. In some cases, a broken spring could puncture a front tire, which increases the risk of a crash.

Our records indicate your vehicle was either sold in an area where road salt is used, or that your vehicle is currently registered in a state where road salt is used.

#### **What should you do?**

Call any authorized Acura dealer, and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will replace both front damper springs with improved springs, free of charge. Please plan to leave your vehicle all 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 Acura dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Acura Client Services  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7E  
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 Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

You can also call the toll-free Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY [800] 424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

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

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2001–2002 MDX involved in this campaign. 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.

If you paid to have defective springs replaced sometime in the past, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the attached Instructions for Reimbursement for eligibility requirements and the reimbursement procedure.

## **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 locating an Acura dealer, please call Acura Client Services at (800) 382-2238.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Acura Automobile Division**