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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION/RMD



American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501 2716
Phone (310) 783-2000

January 31, 2007

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

07V-034
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

On January 24, 2007, 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)

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 Civic Hybrid	Certain 2006 model year	JHMFA36216S000019 – JHMFA36216S031156 Sept. 6, 2005 – Sept. 5, 2006

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: 31,123

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

In 2006 Civic Hybrid vehicles, certain parts of the integrated motor assist (IMA) system are located under a metal cover behind the rear seat-back. Over time the weight of rear seat passengers may cause the metal cover to come into contact with a rubber cap covering an electrical terminal. The rubber cap may get pinched, exposing the electrical terminal. The terminal may come into contact with the metal cover, which can result in an electrical short that may blow the IMA fuse. A blown fuse will cause the engine to stall, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 21, 2006	First occurrence in Europe
June 30, 2006	Honda Europe issues a quality inspection report
July 2006	HMC and Honda Europe initiates investigation
Oct. 11, 2006	AHM is informed of European occurrence and monitors U.S. market. No other occurrences reported in the world.
Jan. 24, 2007	HMC completed investigation and determined that a safety-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 install a plastic cover attached to a metal bracket over the rubber cap, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Jan. 31, 2007
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Feb. 6, 2007
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Feb. 26, 2007
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Feb. 28, 2007

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:

Q35

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis