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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.



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

November 19, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

07V-542  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

On November 9, 2007, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the hood prop rod base of certain 2008 model year Honda Ridgeline automobiles, 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 Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)

**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 Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>                                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honda Ridgeline   | Certain 2008 model year | 2HJYK16538H519651 - 2HJYK16528H520872<br>Oct. 18, 2007 – Oct. 30, 2007 |

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

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** approx 410

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** approx. 1%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

During the manufacturing process, the hole in the sheetmetal front bulkhead that serves as the base and pivot point for the hood support rod was not punched to specification. The hood support rod may fail to hold the hood in position due to insufficient strength. If the hood support rod hole fails, the hood could fall increasing the risk of injury.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

|               |                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 29, 2007 | HCM experienced a hood that fell from the open position while the vehicle was being moved within the factory and initiated an investigation. |
| Nov. 9, 2007  | HCM 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 automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the prop rod base hole. If necessary, reinforcement parts will be installed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

|                                                                          |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:</b> | Nov. 12, 2007 |
| <b>The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:</b>        | Nov. 19, 2007 |
| <b>The estimated date to begin notifying owners:</b>                     | Dec. 5, 2007  |
| <b>The estimated date of completion of the notification:</b>             | Dec. 5, 2007  |

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.

Mr. Daniel Smith  
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573.6(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:**  
Q64

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis