

July 25, 2008

08V-349
(3 Pages)

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

On July 21, 2008, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the rear lower control arm of certain 2008 model year Honda Element vehicles, 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 of America Manufacturing Inc. (HAM)
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 Element	Certain 2008 model year	5J6YH18718L013895 – 5J6YH18748L013924 May 19, 2008 5J6YH28788L014984 – 5J6YH28308L015673 May 8, 2008 – May 20, 2008

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

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

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 241

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 10%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The front bushing bracket of the left trailing arm of the rear suspension may have been improperly welded and could separate from the trailing arm. A separated bushing bracket would cause the suspension to release the lower portion of the wheel hub, causing a loss of control and damage to the brake system which could lead to a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

July 10, 2008	HAM received first failed part and initiated an investigation
July 15, 2008	HAM received second failed part.
July 16, 2008	HAM visited supplier for analysis of failed parts.
July 18, 2008	AHM received an initial report from HAM and reported to HMC. HMC approved to conduct a proactive market action and AHM notified to NHTSA by phone.
July 21, 2008	HAM 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 phone and asked to stop driving their vehicles and have their vehicle taken to a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect and if necessary repair, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: July 18, 2008

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: July 25, 2008

The estimated date to begin calling owners: July 19, 2008

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: TBD

The estimated date of completion of the notification: TBD

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.

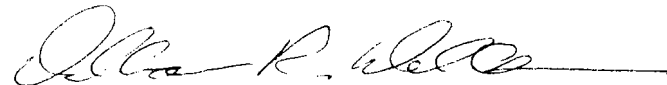
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

08-053

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis