



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 6, 2010

MR. JAY JOSEPH
SENIOR MANAGER,
PRODUCT REGULATORY OFFICE
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.
1919 TORRANCE BLVD.
TORRENCE, CA 90501

NVS-215dgl
10V-364

SUBJECT: IGNITION INTERLOCK

DEAR MR. JOSEPH:

This letter serves to acknowledge American Honda Motor Co.'s (Honda) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

HONDA/ACCORD/2003
HONDA/CIVIC/2003
HONDA/ELEMENT/2003-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-364

Mfg's Report Date: August 4, 2010

Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IGNITION

Potential Number of Units Affected: 384,220

Summary:

HONDA IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2003 HONDA ACCORD, CIVIC TWO AND FOUR DOOR, AND MODEL YEAR 2003-2004 HONDA ELEMENT VEHICLES. THE INTERLOCK LEVER OF THE IGNITION SWITCH MAY UNEXPECTEDLY DEFORM, WHICH CAN ALLOW THE INTERLOCK FUNCTION OF A VEHICLE WITH AN AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION TO BE DEFEATED.

Consequence:

REMOVAL OF THE IGNITION KEY WHEN THE GEAR SELECTOR OF A VEHICLE WITH AN AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION HAS NOT BEEN SHIFTED TO THE PARK POSITION CAN ALLOW THE VEHICLE TO ROLL AWAY, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REMOVE THE ORIGINAL INTERLOCK PIN AND LEVER WITHIN THE IGNITION SWITCH, AND REPLACE THEM WITH NEW, DESIGNED COMPONENTS. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 29, 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT HONDA AT 1-800-999-1009.

Notes:

HONDA'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R44. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement