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By Recall Mgt Div. at 8:47 am, Mar 16, 2010

10V-098
(3 pages)

HONDA

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

March 15, 2010

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

Re: Recall Notification
2007-08 Model Year Honda Element and Odyssey
VSA Modulator

Dear Mr. Smith:

On March 9, 2010, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the VSA modulators of certain 2007-08 model year Honda Element and Odyssey 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 of America Mfg., Inc. (HAM)
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama LLC (HMA)

Manufacturer's agent: Jay Joseph
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 2007 model year	5J6YH18747L000055 - 5J6YH183X7L017309 8/3/2006 to 6/8/2007 5J6YH28787L000033 - 5J6YH28767L016389 7/28/2006 to 6/12/2007
Honda Element	Certain 2008 model year	5J6YH189X8L000001 - 5J6YH18788L015904 6/5/2007 to 7/26/2008 5J6YH28748L000001 - 5J6YH28718L018133 6/14/2007 to 7/28/2008
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2007 model year	5FNRL38627B000201 - 5FNRL38767B145332 8/8/2006 to 10/15/2007 5FNRL384X7B400201 - 5FNRL38657B463188 8/9/2006 to 10/15/2007

Honda Odyssey	Certain 2008 model year	5FNRL38988B000201 - 5FNRL38988B117034 10/2/2007 to 8/21/2008
		5FNRL38668B400201 - 5FNRL38668B419525 10/3/2007 to 4/11/2008

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: approx. 412,000

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

During an initial self-check process that occurs shortly after each time the engine is started, the self-diagnostic software for the VSA modulator allows a vacuum condition that can remain for several hours, allowing air to enter the VSA modulator pump. Over time, and after starting the engine thousands of times, it is possible for enough air to enter the system to result in a brake pedal that feels soft or lower to the floor. If the customer does not have any brake service or maintenance performed over a period of months or years, the system can continue to accumulate enough air to affect braking performance.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

May. 26, 2009	AHM received an inquiry letter from NHTSA (PE09-024) and cooperated with NHTSA. HAM and HMA initiated an investigation.
July 24, 2009	AHM responded to NHTSA PE09-024.
Aug. 26 & Sep. 1, 2009	AHM received additional questions from NHTSA.
Sep. 10, 2009	AHM responded and explained answers during a telephone conference.
Oct. 21, 2009	AHM received EA09-014 notification and cooperated with NHTSA continued analysis efforts.
Oct. 22, 2009	Honda demonstrated test vehicles with the soft pedal condition and reported the interim results of our investigation to NHTSA.
Mar. 9, 2010	HAM and HMA 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 remove existing air in the brake system then apply sealant and caps to the VSA modulator to prevent air from entering the brake system, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Mar. 15, 2010

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: April 15, 2010

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: April 19, 2010

The estimated date of completion of the notification: May 7, 2010

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:

TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.


Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis