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By delia.lopez at 7:59 am, Dec 17, 2010

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

December 16, 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

10V-640
(4 Pages)

**Re: Recall Notification
2011 Honda Pilot and 2010-2011 Honda Accord V-6
Front Suspension Damper Bolts and Spindle Nuts**

Dear Mr. Smith:

On December 16, 2010, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the front suspension damper bolts on 2011 Honda Pilot vehicles and the front axle spindle nuts of certain 2011 Honda Pilot and 2010-2011 Honda Accord V-6 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 Manufacturing of Alabama, Inc. (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 Pilot	Certain 2011 model year	5FNYF3H23BB015525 – 5FNYF3H66BB033018 July 6, 2010 – December 2, 2010 5FNYF4H5XBB025730 - 5FNYF4H92BB055730 July 7, 2010 – December 2, 2010
Honda Accord V-6	Certain 2010 model year	5KBCP3F85AB018005 - 5KBCP3F85AB019056 July 7, 2010 – August 17, 2010
Honda Accord V-6	Certain 2011 model year	5KBCP3F89BB001001 - 5KBCP3F86BB003756 August 17, 2010 – December 1, 2010

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: 10,823

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Due to a programming error of the computer-controlled machine that tightens the attachment bolts of the front left and right suspension damper brackets to the suspension knuckles on 2011 Pilots, these bolts may not have been tightened properly during assembly. If the bolts are not properly tightened the front suspension can collapse, causing excessive noise and increasing the risk of loss of mobility during a low speed maneuver.

In addition, during assembly of the front axle spindles, the spindle nuts of certain 2011 Pilot and certain 2010-11 Accord V-6 vehicles may not have been properly tightened. A similar programming error to the one described above may have resulted in the spindle nuts not being tightened to specification. If the spindle nuts are not properly tightened, the axle hub assembly can move, causing excessive noise and increasing the risk of loss of mobility if the front suspension collapses.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 9, 2010	HMA received a NHTSA hotline complaint claiming that the front suspension of a 2011 Pilot had collapsed. HMA initiated an investigation into the cause of this complaint. This incident was determined to be an isolated event caused by operator error.
July 6, 2010	HMA changed the computer program that controls the machines that tighten the front suspension damper attachment bolts and front axle spindle nuts
Nov. 19, 2010	HMA received a complaint claiming that the front suspension of a 2011 Pilot had collapsed.
Dec. 1, 2010	HMA observed abnormal operation of the machine that tightens the front suspension damper attachment bolts.

Dec. 2, 2010	Based on the observation of abnormal operation, HMA begins 100% in-line torque check of the front suspension damper attachment bolts.
Dec. 8, 2010	Root cause identified at HMA as a change to the software that operates bolt and nut tightening machines for the front suspension components described above.
Dec. 16, 2010	HMC completed the investigation and 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 front suspension bolts for proper tightening to the recommended torque specifications. If the bolts have been tightened properly, no further action is necessary. If the bolts are loose, they will be replaced with new parts that will be tightened to the proper torque specification. Vehicles suspected of having loose spindle nuts will have the spindle nuts removed and replaced with new ones that will be tightened to the proper torque specification. The inspection and any necessary repairs will be completed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

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

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: December 23, 2010

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: December 23, 2010

The estimated date of completion of the notification: December 23, 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:

R60

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Joseph", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis