

December 10, 2010

Dear Service Manager:

Honda has announced a safety recall campaign for certain 1998–02 Passports. Over time, in states that use road salt*, excessive corrosion can develop on or near the brackets attaching the lower trailing links to the frame. If the corrosion reaches a heavy stage, a clunking noise may be heard during acceleration and braking. In rare cases of severe corrosion, a trailing link could separate from the frame. If this happens, vehicle handling could be affected, increasing the risk of a crash.

* These “salt belt states” include Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C.

Repair Strategy

The repair is to inspect the lower trailing link front brackets for excessive corrosion and, depending on the stage of corrosion, do one of these repairs:

- Stage 1 Repair (about 50 percent of affected vehicles): Apply Noxudol 300 anti-corrosion wax.
- Stage 2 Repair (about 40 percent of affected vehicles): Apply Noxudol 300 and Noxudol 700 anti-corrosion wax.
- Stage 3 Repair (about 8 percent of affected vehicles): Install Trailing Link Frame Bracket Kit A, and apply Noxudol 300 and Noxudol 700 anti-corrosion wax.
- Stage 4 Repair (only about 1 percent of affected vehicles): Install Trailing Link Frame Bracket Kit B, and apply Noxudol 300 and Noxudol 700 anti-corrosion wax.

For repair, tools, parts, materials, and warranty information, refer to Service Bulletin 10-079, *Safety Recall: Corrosion On Lower Trailing Link Front Brackets*.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your used vehicle inventory. As a matter of federal law, these vehicles must be repaired before they are sold. Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes an injury or damage because of the recalled item, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify American Honda for any resulting claims.

To see if a vehicle is affected by this campaign, make sure the customer has a notification letter or do an iN VIN status inquiry. In addition, check for a recall campaign completion label on the back edge of the driver's door, just below the door latch. This label indicates that the campaign has already been completed.

Customer Notification

Owners of affected vehicles will begin receiving notifications of this campaign the week of December 13, 2010. Two different notifications are being sent: one for vehicles less than 10 years old (as of September 22, 2010), and another for vehicles more than 10 years old (as of September 22, 2010). Examples of both customer notifications are at the end of service bulletin 10-079.

Tools Information

Dealers in salt belt states will be auto-shipped a pop nut installer, a 1/4 in. drill guide, and a 33/64 in. drill bit as required special tools. These tools are needed only for Stage 3 and Stage 4 repairs. All other tools needed for stage 3 or stage 4 repairs are commercially available. Special tool shipments will occur for some dealers in mid-December 2010, with the balance of salt belt state dealers receiving their tools by mid-January 2011.

Parts and Materials Information

Dealers in salt belt states will be auto-shipped a small supply of Noxudol 300 anti-corrosion wax and Noxudol 700 anti-corrosion wax in mid-December 2010. These are the only materials needed for Stage 1 and Stage 2 repairs (covering about 90 percent of affected vehicles). To order more Noxudol 300 and Noxudol 700. call Noxudol at 818-308-8430.

Trailing Link Frame Bracket Kit A (needed only for Stage 3 repairs) and Trailing Link Frame Bracket Kit B (needed only for Stage 4 repairs) will be available through the controlled parts ordering system after mid-January 2011. If a vehicle needs a Stage 3 repair prior to parts availability, it is OK for the customer to continue driving it until parts are available. If a vehicle needs a Stage 4 repair prior to parts availability, it is **not OK** for the customer to continue driving it; contact Honda Tech Line for further instructions.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Automobile Division