

February 16, 2011

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

11V-101  
 (3 Pages)

**Re: Recall Notification  
 2009-10 Model Year Honda Fit  
 Lost Motion Spring**

Dear Mr. Smith:

On February 9, 2011, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the lost motion spring assemblies (4) in the valvetrain of the cylinder head of certain 2009-10 model year Honda Fit 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)  
**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 Fit	Certain 2009 model year	JHMGE88669C000005 - JHMGE88619C007783 May 6, 2009 to Sept. 3, 2009
		JHMGE872X9S000027 - JHMGE88649S075923 July 17, 2008 to Aug. 31, 2009
Honda Fit	Certain 2010 model year	JHMGE8H27AC000001 - JHMGE8H49AC013589 Sept. 3, 2009 to Nov. 26, 2009

**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:**

97,201

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:**

Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

Each of the four lost motion spring assemblies in the variable valve timing and lift electronic control (VTEC) system uses a retainer at the end of the lost motion spring where it contacts the rocker arm, with the retainer sliding at the contact point as the rocker arm reciprocates. Due to high friction where the lost motion spring retainer contacts the rocker arm, a lack of lubrication in this area may occur at low engine speeds. A lack of lubrication at the retainer may cause the lost motion spring to be displaced laterally when the spring is being compressed by the rocker arm, causing high stress if the spring contacts the edge of the spring keeper while being compressed. Such contact will possibly fracture the spring and cause noise. In the worst case, a broken spring may become caught in the camshaft, causing the engine to stall without the ability to be restarted. A stalled engine increases the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

July 1, 2008	HMC received a claim of engine noise in Japan, and initiated an investigation into the cause of this claim.
July 30, 2008	HMC confirmed lost motion spring breakage.
August 29, 2008	First claim of an engine stall received in the North America.
January 29, 2009	The occurrence trend of the failure was low, and vehicles could be stopped safely, so HMC determined market action was not necessary, and implemented one-year market monitoring.
March 10, 2009	First claim of a broken lost motion spring received in Europe.
March 23, 2009	First claim of a broken lost motion spring received in the Asia region.
May 11, 2009	First claim of a broken lost motion spring received in China.
November 24, 2009	HMC changed the specification of the spring to prevent future occurrences.
January 15, 2010	First claim of a broken lost motion spring received in South America.
March 17, 2010	The occurrence trend of the failure was still low at the end of the one year monitoring period, so HMC concluded market monitoring.
June 6, 2010	HMC observed an increase in claims for vehicles one year old or older. Based on this trend HMC re-opened the investigation to reconsider the need for a market action.

February 9, 2011

HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists, deciding to conduct a safety recall.

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 lost motion spring assemblies and if necessary, replace the four lost motion spring assemblies, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:** February 17, 2011

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:** February 19, 2011

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** March 7, 2011

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** March 14, 2011

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:**

R66

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

  
Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

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