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By Recall Management Division at 2:35 pm, Mar 03, 2011

HONDA

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

March 2, 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-106
(4 Pages)

Re: Recall Notification
2006 - 2007 Model Year Honda Civic Hybrid
DC-DC Converter Diode

Dear Mr. Smith:

On February 24, 2011, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in a diode on the DC-DC converter of certain 2006 – 2007 model year Honda Civic Hybrid 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 Civic Hybrid	Certain 2006 model year	JHMFA36216S000019 - JHMFA36216S031156 Sept. 6, 2005 to Sept. 14, 2006
Honda Civic Hybrid	Certain 2007 model year	JHMFA36267S000003 - JHMFA36207S005536 Sept. 12, 2006 to Nov. 1, 2006

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)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: DC-DC Converter
Country of Origin: Japan
Manufacturer: TDK-EPC Corporation
Contact Name: Moritaka Kamiya
Address: 1-13-1, Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 103-0027 Japan
Telephone No.: +81-3-5201-7201

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 36,656

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The Honda Civic Hybrid Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) system has a direct voltage converter (DC-DC converter) that converts the 158 volts of the IMA battery into the 12 volts required to power the 12-volt battery and electrical components of the vehicle. Prior to the DC-DC converter being shipped to Honda for assembly in a vehicle, the supplier tested the converter by manually applying voltage to a diode chip on the converter. If excessive voltage was applied to the diode chip during testing, the diode chip may be damaged. The performance of a damaged diode chip degrades over time and may cause the DC-DC converter to short circuit and the main fuse for the 12-volt battery to blow. A blown main fuse will prohibit power from being provided to the vehicle's electrical components, which will cause the headlights to turn off, the engine to stall, and prevent the vehicle from being restarted, thereby increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

May 24, 2006	HMC received two claims of engine stalls and inability to restart in the United States.
May 25, 2006	HMC initiated an investigation into the cause of these claims.
June 1, 2006	HMC determined the diode chip on the DC-DC converter in the vehicles had short circuited.
August 29, 2006	HMC confirmed the diode chip failure was caused by the application of excessive voltage during testing of the DC-DC converter.
September 11, 2006	Supplier began utilizing improved inspection equipment that prevented excessive voltage from being applied during testing and initiated delivery of properly functioning DC-DC converters.

February 8, 2007	Occurrence trend of the failures was low; therefore, HMC determined market action was not necessary.
June 23, 2010	HMC received five additional claims of engine stalls in the United States.
July 8, 2010	HMC initiated an investigation into the cause of these claims.
August 6, 2010	HMC observed an increase in the number of similar claims. Based on this trend, HMC reconsidered the need for a market action.
February 22, 2011	A total of 82 warranty claims were received in North America in the period of May 24, 2006 through February 22, 2011, which we have attributed to damaged DC-DC converter diode chips installed in vehicles produced on or prior to November 1, 2006. These and similar claims from the same timeframe in other markets were considered in the market action decision.
February 24, 2011	HMC completed the investigation, determined that a safety-related defect exists, and decided 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 replace the DC-DC converter free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	March 3, 2011
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	March 12, 2011
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	March 18, 2011
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	March 25, 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:

R69

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:dj