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By Recall Management Division at 8:28 am, Sep 07, 2011

HONDA

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

September 6, 2011

11V-458
(3 Pages)

Mr. Claude Harris
Acting 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
2011 Model Year CR-Z 6-speed Manual Transmission
Engine Stall Prevention Assist Software**

Dear Mr. Harris:

On August 29, 2011, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the engine control unit (ECU) software of certain 2011 model year Honda CR-Z six-speed manual transmission vehicles, 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 CR-Z	Certain 2011 model year	JHMZF1C6XBS000038 – JHMZF1C49BS016214 January 8, 2010 to June 27, 2011

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was determined 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: 5,626

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

When the vehicle's transmission is in gear and the engine begins to stall due to insufficient acceleration while the clutch pedal is released or the clutch pedal is not pressed when the vehicle comes to a stop, the engine control unit (ECU) activates the engine stall prevention assist software. This software utilizes the integrated motor assist (IMA) to keep the engine turning. At very low or very high temperatures, the IMA high voltage battery output may be reduced and power consumption from the use of the air conditioner, heater, and headlights may be increased, resulting in negative potential torque output. Referencing this negative torque value, the IMA motor may rotate the engine in the opposite direction of the selected gear. If the brake pedal is not pressed, this reverse rotation may cause the vehicle to very slowly move in an unexpected direction, thereby increasing the risk of a crash or personal injury to persons in the path of a rolling vehicle

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Jan. 19, 2010	HMC begins mass production of 2011 model year CR-Z.
Feb. 10, 2011	During in-house testing, Honda R&D Japan determines that under the specified high voltage battery conditions there is a potential for the motor of a CR-Z with a manual transmission to rotate in the opposite direction of the engaged gear causing the vehicle to move in the opposite direction of the selected gear.
April 26, 2011	HMC determines that the oil pressure pump that activates the CR-Z Continuous Variable Transmission (CVT) will not operate when the motor runs in the opposite direction of the engaged gear; therefore, vehicles with CVT will not move in the opposite direction of the selected gear.
June 9, 2011	Honda R&D Japan reports its findings to HMC.
June 20, 2011	HMC initiates an investigation based on the reported findings.
June 27, 2011	HMC concludes production of 2011 model year CR-Z with six-speed manual transmissions.
August 29, 2011	HMC determines that a safety-related defect exists and decides to conduct a safety recall. To date, HMC has received zero claims or reports of a CR-Z moving in the opposite direction of a selected gear.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

Honda dealers will update the ECU software in all affected vehicles. Owners of affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will complete the ECU software update, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: September 5, 2011

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: September 7, 2011

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: September 30, 2011

The estimated date of completion of the notification: October 7, 2011

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letter, and other dealer communication 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:

R94

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:dj