



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 12, 2012

Mr. Jay Joseph
Senior Mgr, Product Regulatory Office
Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501

NVS-215KS
12V-436

Subject: Accessory Trailer Hitch Wiring Harness

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This letter serves to acknowledge Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
HONDA/ELEMENT/2007-2011

Mfr's Report Date: August 31, 2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-436

Components:
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING
TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 5,216

Problem Description:

Honda is recalling certain model year 2007 through 2011 Element passenger vehicles equipped with an accessory trailer hitch wiring harness. The wire that supplies power to the trailer turn signal lights was inadvertently switched with the stop lamp wire. As a result the turn signals only illuminate when the brake lamps are illuminated. This does not comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment."

Consequence:

Without trailer turn signal illumination, the driver's intent is not communicated, potentially increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will repair the vehicles free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin on, or about, September 20, 2012. Owners may contact Honda at 1-800-999-1009.

Notes:

Honda's recall campaign number is S53. Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Honda's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian".

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement