

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 6:57 am, Jan 27, 2012

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

January 19, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

12V-025
(3 Pages)

**Re: Recall Notification
2011-12 Model Year Honda Ridgeline
Spare Tire**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6 as it applies to a determination by Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) of a noncompliance involving the tire information placard required by Section 4.3 of FMVSS No. 110, "Tire Selection and Rims for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) or Less" for certain 2011-12 Honda Ridgeline vehicles.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC (HMA)

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 Ridgeline | Certain 2011 model year | 5FPYK1F20BB451680 - 5FPYK1F55BB454150 August 25, 2011 to October 6, 2011 |
| Honda Ridgeline | Certain 2012 model year | 5FPYK1F4XCB451124 - 5FPYK1F21CB452256 November 3, 2011 to November 29, 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 potentially could have had a spare tire installed in the vehicle that does not match the specifications listed on the tire information placard.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles:

206

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:

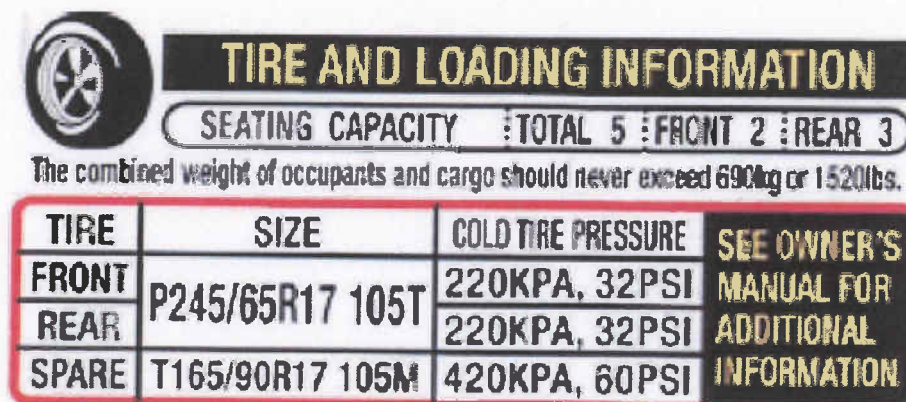
3%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The standard spare tire for U.S. specification 2011-12 Ridgeline vehicles is a temporary tire, and the specifications for this tire are listed on the tire information placard affixed to the vehicle. The U.S. tire information placard is shown below:

Tire Information Placard



The spare tire in affected vehicles may be a full size tire, not a temporary tire. For these vehicles, the tire size and recommended cold inflation pressure for the installed (full size) spare tire are not correctly displayed on the vehicle's tire information placard.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Nov. 30, 2011 | HMA inspections find two vehicles with incorrect spare tires. |
| Dec. 1, 2011 | HMA inspections find five more vehicles with incorrect spare tires. |
| Dec. 2, 2011 | HMA begins investigating the root cause for the incorrect spare tires and analyzes changes made to the spare tire loading procedures and involved personnel when the loading process was relocated to a different zone in the factory in August 2011. |
| Dec. 3 - 22, 2011 | HMA's investigation includes the inspection of 411 vehicles and finds incorrect spare tires in 11 vehicles. |
| Jan. 9, 2012 | HMA concludes its investigation. |

Jan. 12, 2012 HMC determines that a noncompliance exists and decides to conduct a recall.

To date, HMC has not received any claims regarding the noncompliance.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and advised to take their vehicle to a Honda automobile dealer, who will inspect the spare tire and, if necessary, either exchange the spare tire assembly to match the tire information placard on the vehicle or replace the tire information placard so that the listed specifications accurately reflect the installed spare tire. The remedy will be provided free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

| | |
|---|---------------|
| The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notifications to dealers: | Jan. 20, 2012 |
| The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: | Jan. 21, 2012 |
| The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: | Jan. 31, 2012 |
| The estimated date of completion of the notification: | Feb. 7, 2012 |

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, 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.

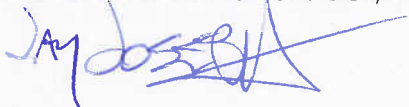
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

S15

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:dj