

February 9, 2012

12V-030
(5 Pages)
Amended

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

**Re: 12V-030 Recall Notification Expansion
2012 Model Year Honda Accord, Crosstour, Civic and MDX
Driver-side or Passenger-side Side Curtain Airbag**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On January 26, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the driver-side or passenger-side side curtain airbag inflators of certain 2012 model year Honda Accord and Crosstour automobiles. We furnished notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports on January 31, 2012. Based on information received on January 31, 2012, HMC anticipated that additional vehicles (and models) might be affected.

On February 8, 2012, HMC determined that additional vehicles and models are affected; therefore, we are submitting an updated recall notification letter.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)
Honda of Canada Mfg. (HCM)
Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, LLC (HMIN)

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 Accord 2-door	Certain 2012 model year	Dec. 5, 2011 – Jan. 12, 2012
		Dec. 14, 2011

Honda Accord 4-door	Certain 2012 model year	Dec 6, 2011 – Jan. 5, 2012
		Dec. 6, 2011 – Dec. 22, 2011
Honda Civic 4-door	Certain 2012 model year	Jan. 9, 2012 – Jan. 26, 2012
		Jan. 17, 2012 – Jan. 25, 2012
Honda Crosstour	Certain 2012 model year	Dec. 5, 2011 – Dec. 22, 2011
		Dec. 7, 2011 – Dec. 23, 2011
Acura MDX	Certain 2012 model year	Nov. 30, 2011 – Dec. 9, 2011

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

The recall population was identified based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles (and models) that potentially could experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: Driver and Passenger Side Curtain Airbag Assemblies
Country of Origin: Mexico
Manufacturer: TK Holdings, Inc.
Contact Name: Kazuo Higuchi
Address: 888 16th Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone No.: (202) 729-6332

Component: Driver and Passenger Side Curtain Airbag Assemblies
Country of Origin: U.S.
Manufacturer: Autoliv North America
Contact Name: Mike Anderson
Address: 1320 Pacific Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Telephone No.: (248) 475-0442

Component: Driver and Passenger Side Curtain Airbag Assemblies
Country of Origin: U.S.
Manufacturer: Neaton Auto Products Manufacturing, Inc.
Contact Name: Tad Barrett

Address: 975 South Franklin Street
Eaton, OH 45320
Telephone No.: (937) 456-7074

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles:

Initial	347
Expanded	<u>627</u>
Total	974

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

An inflator supplier used an incorrect propellant mixture when manufacturing the initiator component of the side curtain airbag inflator. Use of the wrong inflator initiator propellant may result in a failure of the pressurized gas that inflates the airbag to be released from the airbag inflator, which in turn would cause non-deployment of the side curtain airbag during a crash. If the side curtain airbag does not deploy in the event of a crash, the vehicle may fail to comply with the requirements of FMVSS 214, and the risk of injury is increased.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology

Oct. 27-28, 2011	Autoliv prepares 2 slurry mixes using incorrect grade of propellant material; initiator test failed.
Oct. 29, 2011	First group of side curtain airbag inflators built with suspect initiators; inflator test passed.
Oct. 31, 2011	Autoliv's cold inflator test results in non-deployment; suspect inflator lot contained and investigation begins.
Nov. 4, 2011	Investigation completed, root cause is identified based on one slurry mix and product is contained.
Nov. 12, 2011	Autoliv releases certain side curtain airbag inflators for shipment to Takata China, Takata Mexico, and another customer.
Jan. 8, 2012	Non-deployment of side curtain airbag inflator during Lot Acceptance Test (LAT) at Takata China.
Jan. 9, 2012	Takata China reports non-deployment to Autoliv and investigation begins.

Jan. 11, 2012	Autoliv indicates that the Takata China inflator is 1 of 1,365 that escaped containment and were sent to Takata China, Takata NA (Mexico) and another customer.
Jan. 12, 2012	After investigation, Autoliv informs Takata China that burst disk failed to open. Requests suspect inflators be returned.
Jan. 18, 2012	Takata informs HMC.
Jan. 26, 2012	HMC determines that a safety related defect exists.
Jan. 31, 2012	HMC is informed that the number of affected inflators may be greater than the number identified on January 11, 2012, and that affected inflators may include those used on models other than Accord and Crosstour. Investigation continues.
Feb. 8, 2012	HMC determined that additional vehicles and models are affected based on information provided by suppliers, which were cross-referenced with manufacturing records.

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 affected driver-side and/or passenger-side side curtain airbag assembly, as applicable, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Jan. 27, 2012
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Feb. 3, 2012
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Feb. 10, 2012
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Feb. 29, 2012

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin(s), the final customer notification letter(s) and other dealer communication(s) will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

Drafts of the original owner notification letters were provided to NHTSA on January 31, 2012 and approval was received on February 6, 2012. A draft of the owner notification letters for the new models will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

S19, S20, S23, S24

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Joseph", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis