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By Recall Management Division at 2:06 pm, Feb 17, 2012

HONDA

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

February 16, 2012

12V-062
(3 Pages)

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: Recall Notification
2008 - early 2009 Model Year Honda Odyssey EX-L and Touring models
Power Liftgate Gas Struts**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On February 9, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the gas support struts of certain 2008 - early 2009 model year Honda Odyssey automobiles equipped with power liftgate systems, 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 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 Odyssey	Certain 2008 model year	Oct. 2, 2007 to Aug. 21, 2008
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2009 model year	Aug. 7, 2008 to Jan. 13, 2009

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: Gas support struts (2x per vehicle)
Country of Origin: United States
Manufacturer: Stabilus
Contact Name: Susan Barker
Address: 36225 Mound Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
Telephone No.: (586) 446-3943

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 45,747

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The gas-filled struts that help to raise and support the liftgate of vehicles equipped with a power liftgate system may be prone to early life failures due to a manufacturing flaw at the supplier. If this flaw is present, it can result in a leak of the pressurized gas, resulting in reduced strut performance. Struts with significantly diminished performance will result in the liftgate closing under its own power, possibly unexpectedly, with the potential risk of injury and inconvenience to users.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Sept. 23, 2011 AHM received a Preliminary Evaluation opening resume letter from NHTSA (PE11-034)

Sept. 30, 2011 AHM received a Preliminary Evaluation information request letter from NHTSA (PE11-034)

Nov. 22, 2011 AHM responded to PE11-034

Dec. 2011-Jan. 2012 HMA continues analysis of failure mechanism and supplier manufacturing records.

Feb. 2012 HMA concludes investigation, proposes market action

Feb. 9, 2012 HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists.

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 both power liftgate gas struts, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Feb. 17, 2012

The estimated date to provide preliminary service bulletin to dealers:
Feb. 17, 2012

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: March 13, 2012

The estimated date of completion of the notification: March 20, 2012

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:

S22

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.


Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:nis