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12V-573
(4 pages)

HONDA

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

December 10, 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

**Re: Recall Notification
2003-2004 Honda Pilot and Honda Odyssey
2003-2006 Acura MDX
Ignition Interlock**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On December 3, 2012 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the ignition interlock of certain 2003-2004 model year Honda Pilot and Honda Odyssey automobiles and 2003-2006 model year Acura MDX automobiles, and is providing 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 Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)
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:

See Attachment 1.

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: 807,161

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

A design change to the ignition switch applied to these vehicles reduced the range of rotation for the ignition switch from 160° in earlier designs to 125° for these vehicles, with no corresponding change to the ignition interlock blocking mechanism. As a result, the driver may apply excessive rotational force on the ignition key when attempting to remove the key when the gear selector is not in the Park position, potentially damaging a lever in the ignition interlock blocking mechanism. If the ignition interlock lever is damaged, it may become possible for the driver to remove the ignition key when the gear selector is in a position other than the Park position. If the ignition key can be removed when the gear selector is not in the Park position the vehicle may roll away, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Oct 2, 2012	AHM received the opening resume for Preliminary Evaluation (PE12-026) from NHTSA.
Oct 25, 2012	Initial meeting held within Honda to review claim data and begin analysis to compare the ignition switches of subject vehicles to other models.
Nov 27, 2012	North American Quality Committee proposed market action.
Dec 6, 2012	HMC determined that a safety related defect exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

In support of PE12-026 Honda has determined that we have received the following:

- 252 warranty claims from August 14, 2003 to September 30, 2012 for Odyssey, Pilot and MDX;

Excluding the MDX (which was not subject to PE12-026 and has not been investigated by Honda beyond our examination of warranty records) Honda has counted the following for the affected Odyssey and Pilot vehicles:

- 19 field reports, including one allegation of a crash, from February 6, 2008 to September 30, 2012;
- 113 customer complaints, including 2 allegations of injuries and 27 allegations of crashes, from November 3, 2003 to September 30, 2012.

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 or Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will install an updated shift interlock lever and, if necessary, replace the ignition switch, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Dec. 10, 2012

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: Dec. 11, 2012

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Feb. 7, 2013

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Feb. 28, 2013

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 letters will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

Honda Odyssey and Pilot: S73
Acura MDX: S74

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cm

ATTACHMENT 1:

573.6(c)(2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles

Make/Model	Description	VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2003 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HKRL18053H500011 – 2HKRL180X3H505981 August 23, 2002 – March 17, 2003
	Certain 2003 model year Manufactured at HMA	5FNRL18913B000036 – 5FNRL18603B160138 August 15, 2002 – August 25, 2003
	Certain 2004 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HKRL18924H500001 – 2HKRL18624H501350 January 6, 2004 – February 2, 2004
	Certain 2004 model year Manufactured at HMA	5FNRL18004B000001 – 5FNRL18844B151347 August 20, 2003 – August 13, 2004
Honda Pilot	Certain 2003 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HKYF18123H500009 – 2HKYF18573H623209 November 26, 2001 – August 19, 2003
	Certain 2004 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HKYF18594H500013 – 2HKYF18474H624062 August 8, 2003 – September 7, 2004
	Certain 2004 model year Manufactured at HMA	5FNYF18474B000051 – 5FNYF18604B012043 April 2, 2004 – September 3, 2004
Acura MDX	Certain 2003 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HNYD18713H500175 – 2HNYD18933H556010 September 19, 2002 – September 23, 2003
	Certain 2004 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HNYD18934H500049 – 2HNYD18264H562595 August 12, 2003 – September 24, 2004
	Certain 2005 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HNYD18225H500046 – 2HNYD18895H560345 September 16, 2004 – September 16, 2005
	Certain 2006 model year Manufactured at HCM	2HNYD18946H500001 – 2HNYD18286H551388 September 19, 2005 – August 30, 2006