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By Recall Management Division at 8:55 am, Jul 22, 2013

13E-040
(3 pages) **HONDA**

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

July 19, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Equipment Recall Notification
2014 Model Year Acura MDX
Trailer Hitch Harness Accessory Kit**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On July 19, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the trailer harness accessory kit of certain 2014 model year Acura MDX vehicles, 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 Access America, Inc. (HAA)

Manufacturer's agent: Jay Joseph
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of affected vehicle equipment:

<u>Component Name</u>	<u>Part Number</u>
Trailer Hitch Harness Kit	08L91-TZ5-200

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

The affected kit was designed specifically for 2014 model year Acura MDX vehicles.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of trailer hitch kits sold to dealers: 652

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected trailer hitch kits that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

An incorrect electrical diagram was used in the manufacturing of the sub-harness in the trailer hitch accessory kit. The diagram mistakenly switched the terminal for the wire that supplies power with the terminal for the electronic brake. As a result, the sub-harness may not power the trailer brake controller which could increase stopping distances and increase the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

July 10, 2013	Honda received a customer complaint about the trailer brake controller not working correctly. The malfunction was able to be re-created on in-house vehicles.
July 19, 2013	Honda completed the investigation and determined that a safety related defect exists and decided to conduct a recall.

Honda has not received any reports of crashes or injuries related to this issue.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all affected components will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an Acura dealer. If the customer has not installed a trailer brake controller, then the dealer will update the current harness. If the customer has installed a trailer brake controller, then the dealer will re-install the sub-harness to correct the mismatched wires. All work will be done free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	July 19, 2013
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	July 19, 2013
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	TBD
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	TBD

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter 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:

TBD

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:cmb