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By Recall Management Division at 7:19 am, Mar 15, 2013

13V-093
(3 pages)**HONDA**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

March 14, 2013

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
2004-2008 Model Year Acura TSX
ECU Corrosion

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On March 7, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists that can affect the engine Electronic Control Unit (ECU) of certain 2004-2008 model year Acura TSX 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 Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)

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:

Certain model year 2004-2008 Acura TSX that are currently registered in, or were first sold in, the "salt belt" states: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Acura TSX	Certain 2004	JH4CL95984C000069 - JH4CL96884C046488 February 12, 2003 to September 29, 2004
	Certain 2005	JH4CL95925C000022 - JH4CL96825C035830 October 12, 2004 to September 30, 2005
	Certain 2006	JH4CL95926C000037 - JH4CL96906C040471 October 19, 2005 to September 28, 2006
	Certain 2007	JH4CL96817C000005 - JH4CL95837C022668 October 5, 2006 to June 4, 2007
	Certain 2008	JH4CL96828C000001 - JH4CL95878C021993 June 4, 2007 to January 30, 2008

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: 76,253

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Certain Acura TSX vehicles operated in areas that use corrosive materials for road deicing purposes may experience rust or corrosion on the vehicle's engine ECU. Moisture and chemicals used to melt snow and ice can be brought into the vehicle by the driver's footwear, saturating the floor carpet. The driver's floor carpeting, which contacts the ECU case, may transfer the moisture and chemicals onto the ECU case, causing rust or corrosion of the ECU case. If excessive corrosion develops inside the ECU case it can result in damage to the ECU, potentially causing the engine to stall, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

February 16, 2011 – The first TSX ECU was returned to HMC from Iceland with visible rust on the ECU case with an allegation of the engine stalling.

March 10, 2011 – Investigation of the returned Iceland ECU showed sodium and chlorine in the corroded area. The root cause of the engine stalling was an ECU malfunction caused by corrosion of the ECU case which had caused damage to the ECU.

June – July 2011 – Three more ECU's from Iceland were reported and sent to HMC for analysis. All were confirmed to have sodium and chlorine present along with the ECU malfunction caused by corrosion of the circuit board.

September 2011 – Five units from Canada were reported, inspected and confirmed to have rust on the ECU. Investigation on the Canadian vehicles revealed that the floor carpet was contacting the left side surface of the ECU case.

November 2, 2011 – Investigation revealed that sodium and chlorine were found in the floor carpet obtained from the Canadian vehicles and that the damage to the ECU was the result of the contact between the wet carpet and the ECU case.

August 24, 2012 – The occurrences in Iceland were determined to be from the use of hot springs water, which is used to melt snow on roads and parking lots and is also used to wash vehicles at car washes.

August 31, 2012 – Additional ECU's were collected from the US and Canada for further investigation.

March 7, 2013 – HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety related defect exists and decided to conduct a recall.

It is not possible for Honda to determine the number of warranty and other customer contentions attributable to this condition in the United States without detailed inspection of each ECU. Since we did not inspect each ECU returned from customer vehicles due to any cause, we do not know which ones may have been returned due to this cause. As a result of this uncertainty, we are unable to report the date of the first warranty claim or other customer contention, or the total number of claims due to this cause

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 an Acura automobile dealer for inspection and repair. If the inspection shows a malfunction indicator light illuminated as a result of a corroded ECU, the dealer will replace the damaged part and install a waterproof cover onto the ECU. If there is no malfunction indicator light illuminated the dealer will only install the waterproof cover. All work will be performed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	March 15, 2013
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	March 16, 2013
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	April 11, 2013
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	April 12, 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 letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

S86

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cm