

October 31, 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
2007-2008 Model Year Honda Odyssey
Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) System**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On October 24, 2013 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) system of certain 2007 and 2008 model year Honda Odyssey 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 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	2007 model year	5FNRL38627B000201 – 5FNRL38657B463188 August 8, 2006 to October 20, 2007
Honda Odyssey	2008 model year	5FNRL38988B000201 – 5FNRL38668B419525 October 2, 2007 to September 8, 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)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: VSA Modulator
Country of Origin: Germany
Manufacturer: Continental Teves AG & Co. oHG
Contact Name: Paul Schneider
Address: Guerickestrasse 7
60488 Frankfurt a. M.
Telephone No.: +49 69 7603 8000

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles:

344,187

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:

Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Due to a combination of VSA system components and software that is unique to 2007-2008 model year Odyssey vehicles, it is possible for the VSA system to apply the brakes unexpectedly. If calibration of the yaw rate sensor is prohibited when the vehicle starts moving and then the vehicle is driven in a specific manner, the VSA system can build hydraulic pressure in the braking system. If this occurs without interruption, the pressure may be released into the brake circuit, causing heavy and unexpected braking without the driver pressing on the brake pedal and without illumination of the brake lamps, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

April 26, 2012 – HMA received the first claim of an alleged VSA braking event, but the event could not be recreated during testing.

October 3, 2012 – HMA received a second claim of an alleged VSA braking event, but the event could not be recreated during testing.

June 12, 2013 – Investigation of revealed the possibility of a pressurization failure during activation of pre-Active Yaw Control (AYC) on the 2007 and 2008 model year Odyssey.

June 25, 2013 – Honda received the opening resume for PE13-024.

June 27, 2013 – A yaw-rate sensor from a vehicle alleging a VSA braking event was measured and exceeded one Honda specification.

September 6, 2013 – Honda response to PE13-024 was submitted to NHTSA.

October 24, 2013 – HMC determined that a safety defect exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of June 30, 2013, Honda has received 109 warranty claims and 205 field reports related to this issue, as listed in the response to PE13-024.

Honda has not received any crash or injury reports related to this issue.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

Due to the large volume of new parts needed to repair owner's vehicles, the necessary parts will not be available until spring of 2014. As a result, owners will be informed of the potential existence of the defect in an initial notification letter. The initial letter will also include instructions to owners about procedures that they can follow to properly calibrate the VSA system to prevent an unintended braking event, as well as instructions about what to do if the

event occurs while driving. A second notification letter will be sent to inform owners when parts become available.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Nov. 1, 2013
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Nov. 1, 2013
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Dec. 2, 2013
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Dec. 30, 2013
The estimated date to begin sending 2nd notification to owners:	March 2014

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letters 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:

JC5

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb