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From American Honda Parts, Service & Technical Division, Campaign Administration
Subject Stop Sale/Safety Recall: 2007-08 Odyssey VSA Software Error Q&A File

DATE: November 6, 2013

TO: All Honda Sales, Service & Parts Managers and Personnel
FROM: American Honda Parts, Service & Technical Division, Campaign Administration

RE: Stop Sale/Safety Recall: 2007-08 Odyssey VSA Software Error Q&A File

On October 31, 2013, American Honda notified NHTSA of a **Stop Sale** order and **Safety Recall** for all 2007-08 Odyssey units. Please refer to the attached Q&A File for additional details related to this Safety Recall.

Click [here](#) for the Q&A File in PDF format.

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2007-08 Odyssey VSA Software Error Safety Recall Q&A

What is the reason for this recall?	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 vehicle's brakes unexpectedly under certain conditions. Each time a vehicle starts moving after an engine restart, the VSA system calibrates the yaw rate sensor. If the vehicle is driven in a specific manner, the VSA system will not properly complete that calibration and hydraulic pressure in the braking system can build. 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.
What is VSA?	Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) is an electronic vehicle stability system that utilizes multiple vehicle systems to enhance the driver's control of the vehicle. VSA manages a Traction Control System, Active Yaw Control, Antilock Brake System, Electronic Brake force Distribution, and Brake Assist.
What is a yaw rate sensor?	The yaw sensor is gyroscopic device that measures a vehicle's angular velocity around its vertical axis. It allows the VSA system to determine sideways movement of the vehicle in relation to wheel direction.
Is this issue related to the VSA recalls announced earlier this year on other Honda vehicles?	No. The recall announced in March affecting 2005 Honda Pilot; 2005-2006 Acura MDX and 2005 Acura RL was related to two completely different physical causes. The recall affecting the 2012-2013 Fit was related to the VSA software programming and its non-compliance with FMVSS.
What will be done to repair recalled vehicles?	A Honda dealer will replace the yaw rate sensor.
How long will the repair take?	Customers should ask their dealers for a time estimate when making an appointment for repair, as each dealer's daily schedule is different.
How did Honda discover this issue?	Honda received warranty claims that included claims from customers that they experienced this unexpected braking. An internal investigation was initiated to verify the symptoms and identify potential causes. As that investigation was under way, NHTSA also opened an investigation in July 2013, and Honda fully cooperated with that inquiry. On October 31, 2013, Honda notified NHTSA of its intention to conduct this recall.
When will customers be notified?	Initial mailed notification to customers will begin in December 2013 with the second notification to follow in March 2014 as replacement parts become available. Owners can also visit www.recalls.honda.com for more information.
What should a customer do if their vehicle is experiencing a problem now?	Detailed instructions on how to ensure proper VSA system calibration are available to customers at www.recalls.honda.com . This recall applies to a limited number of specific vehicles, and it is unnecessary for all owners of these vehicles to visit a dealer. However, we want each customer who receives a notification letter and has the condition to have their vehicle repaired.
Why will it take so long to get replacement parts?	Honda is no longer building the 2007-2008 Odyssey, and the yaw rate sensor is not an often-replaced component. It will take some time to start the manufacture of replacement parts to repair all of the affected vehicles. Further, the VSA software is contained on a non-reprogrammable electronic control unit, so Honda was not able to perform a software update for the affected vehicles.
Are all 2007-2008 Odysseys part of this recall?	No. Only a limited number of specific vehicles are affected by the recall.
Is there a potential to include other vehicles in the future?	We are confident that we have identified all of the potentially affected vehicles and do not expect to add any in the future.
Why are other Odyssey vehicles from this generation not affected?	The VSA control unit software specification that allows this issue is unique to the 2007-2008 model year Odysseys.
Where were these vehicles built?	Lincoln, Alabama