



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 23, 2014

Mr. Jay Joseph  
Senior Mgr, Product Regulatory Office  
Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501

NVS-215kjs  
14V-353

**Subject:** Passenger Side Air Bag Inflator may Rupture

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This serves to acknowledge receipt of American Honda Motor Company, Inc.'s (Honda) letter of June 19, 2014 notifying NHTSA of Honda's intention to conduct a limited regional recall in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands of vehicles it manufactured originally equipped with certain TK Holdings, Inc. (Takata) air bag inflators. We confirm that Honda has notified the agency that it has not decided there is a safety defect in its vehicles, and is conducting this recall out of an abundance of caution in the absence of a cognizable defect trend. The objectives of the recall are twofold. The primary goal is to protect the drivers and passengers in these areas for which there have been isolated incidents of inflator rupture on a wide variety of manufacturer makes and models. The secondary goal is to capture air bag inflators for analysis and testing. This recall is being conducted in response to an agency proposal that the involved manufacturers conduct this action in the interests of motor vehicle safety and in order to support a coordinated and aggressive effort, together with Takata to ascertain if there is safety defect in the front passenger's inflator, determine any cause(s), and conduct the necessary additional safety recalls if applicable.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

ACURA/MDX/2003-2005  
ACURA/RL/2005  
HONDA/ACCORD/2003-2005  
HONDA/CIVIC/2003-2005  
HONDA/CR-V/2003-2005  
HONDA/ELEMENT/2003-2005  
HONDA/ODYSSEY/2003-2004  
HONDA/PILOT/2003-2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 14V-353

**Mfr's Report Date:** June 19, 2014

**Components:** AIR BAGS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** To Be Determined

**Summary:**

American Honda Motor Company, Inc.'s (Honda) is conducting a limited regional recall for certain model year 2003-2005 Accord, Civic, CR-V, Element, Pilot and Acura MDX, model year 2003-2004 Odyssey and model year 2005 Acura RL vehicles originally sold, or ever registered in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and equipped with Takata-brand air bag inflators. Upon deployment of the passenger side frontal air bag, excessive internal pressure may cause the inflator to rupture.

**Consequence:**

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger side frontal air bag, the inflator could rupture with metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the vehicle occupants.

**Remedy:**

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the inflators in all affected vehicles, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Honda customer service at 1-800-999-1009.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Please submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers for our review. Although Honda has not identified a safety defect in its vehicles, in order to maximize owner response and minimize confusion, the owner letter should be fully compliant with 49 CFR Part 577.5. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Honda has not yet informed NHTSA of its anticipated dates for owner notification and remedy availability. We ask that you please keep us informed as those plans develop.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement