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14V-258
(3 pages)

HONDA

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

May 15, 2014

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
2013 Model Year Honda Fit
Passenger Side Driveshaft**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On May 8, 2014 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the Drive Shaft of certain 2013 model year Honda Fit 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:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Fit	Certain 2013 model year with manual transmission.	JHMGE8G32DC051100 - JHMGE8G57DC056973 May 24, 2013 to July 5, 2013

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:

1,038

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

During manufacturing of the passenger side driveshaft, it is possible that the heat treatment process was not properly applied, resulting in the driveshaft having a lower hardness level that is outside of the design specification. A driveshaft exhibiting lower hardness could break while driving, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

October 31, 2013

Honda was notified of a broken driveshaft claim outside of the United States.

January 29, 2014

Honda began defect investigation on the broken driveshaft claim.

March 14, 2014

Honda determined that the broken driveshaft was due to insufficient quenching of the driveshaft material. Honda, at this time, viewed the claim as a singular occurrence.

March 21, 2014 – April 4, 2014

Honda was notified of three additional occurrences of broken driveshaft claims outside of the United States.

April 10, 2014

Investigation of the driveshaft manufacturing process indicated that the process may not have been completed properly.

April 17, 2014

Honda determined that the three additional broken driveshaft claims from outside of the United States were due to insufficient heat treatment of the driveshafts. At the time, Honda did not recognize that United States vehicles were affected by this condition.

May 8, 2014

Honda determined that a safety defect exists and decided to conduct a recall.

As of April 30, 2014, Honda has received 1 warranty claim and no injuries within the United States related to this issue.

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 a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the passenger side driveshaft and if necessary, replace it free of charge.

Because the new vehicle warranty on all affected vehicles would have provided a free repair for the problem addressed by this recall, without any payment by the owner, reimbursement for pre-notification repairs will not be offered.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: May 15, 2014

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: May 15, 2014

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: June 15, 2014

The estimated date of completion of the notification: June 15, 2014

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and other dealer communication will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

May 15, 2014

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

JE4

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Assistant Vice President
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb