

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

REVIEWED BY:  
JOHN TURLEY  
MAR-13-2018  
*John Turley*

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC

Manufacturer's agent: John Turley  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
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	Certain 2014 model year	5FNRL5H62EB010803 - 5FNRL5H40EB139671 8/05/2013 – 9/08/2014
		5FNRL5H46EB016215 - 5FNRL5H61EB121181 8/06/2013 – 6/11/2014
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2015 model year	5FNRL5H49FB001001 - 5FNRL5H98FB132139 7/31/2014 – 7/31/2015
		5FNRL5H68FB013156 - 5FNRL5H46FB120558 9/02/2014 – 7/08/2015
Honda Odyssey	Certain 2016 model year	5FNRL5H38GB001001 - 5FNRL5H34GB001030 7/14/2015 – 7/14/2015

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: Frame, L Middle Seat Back  
Part No.: 81726-TK8-A22  
Country of Origin: USA  
Manufacturer: TS Tech America, Inc.  
Contact Name: John Pineau  
Address: 8458 East Broad St.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.  
Telephone No.: 614-575-4100

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.

Description of how the vehicles being recalled differ from similar vehicles not included in the recall:

Only vehicles manufactured within the specified date ranges were potentially assembled with suspect second row left outboard seatback recliner components.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 254,568

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

The second row outboard seats installed in affected vehicles have levers for the walk-in feature which folds the seatback and slides the seat forward for access to the third row seats. Due to a manufacturing error, if the walk-in release lever is used to fold a fully reclined left outboard seatback forward, there is potential for the seatback to stay in the unlocked position (free-folding) or unexpectedly unlock without engaging the walk-in or recliner lever. An unlocked second row left outboard seatback increases the risk of injury to the seat occupant during a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

February to December 2015

Honda received the first warranty claims for the second row left outboard seatback not locking into place. The root cause of the failure was unable to be determined and Honda decided to continue monitoring the field for related incidents.

January to October 2016

Honda performed reproduction and cause analysis on returned warranty parts from the market, but experienced difficulty in reproducing the customer contentions due to the parts' condition (damaged).

November 2016

Honda was able to reproduce the seatback not locking into place with healthy parts from the supplier. Seatback recliner failure was caused by the pawl in the seat recliner disc separating from the guide plate, preventing the seatback from locking.

December 2016 to March 2017

Parts were collected from healthy cars in the market for additional analysis. Honda identified that cam rotation angle increases when using the walk-in lever compared to the recliner lever. The supplier also confirmed that a manufacturing error deformed the left side recliner lever stopper tab, which offsets the adjustment rod and increases the cam rotation angle. The combined increase to the cam rotation angle contributed to pawl separation from the guide plate.

March to August 2017

Continued analysis found that the guide plate, which secures the pawl in the seat recliner disc, may have higher than specified embossment heights due to variations in manufacturing stamping. The variation in the guide plate's inner embossments can increase the gap in the seat recliner disc, contributing to pawl separation from the guide plate.

September 2017 to March 2018

Honda confirmed that both of the following conditions must exist for the pawl to separate from the guide plate: 1) increased cam rotation angle from walk-in lever usage and left side recliner lever stopper tab deformation, and 2) increased gap in the seat recliner disc from

variation in the guide plate's inner embossment height. Honda and the supplier investigated the probability of future occurrences and the range of potentially affected vehicles.

March 6, 2018

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

As of March 6, 2018 Honda has received 354 warranty claims, and no field reports or reports of injuries related to this safety defect.

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 confirm proper second row left outboard seatback recliner operation. Once confirmed, a support bracket will be added to the seat recliner disc that limits the cam rotation angle. If the seatback cannot lock, the seatback frame assembly will be replaced. The repair and possible replacement will be completed for free.

To ensure second row left outboard seatback recliner functionality, the owner notification letter will advise the owner to set the seatback angle with the recliner lever only, and to rock the seatback back and forth to confirm that it is locked every time after using the walk-in function.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to start notification to dealers:** March 7, 2018

**The estimated date to start notifications to owners:** April 30, 2018

573.6(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final owner 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:** X0R