

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

REVIEWED BY:
JOHN TURLEY
MAR-28-2019
John Turley

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Mfg., Inc.
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>Model Year</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles</u>
Acura MDX	2014	10/22/2012 to 06/03/2014	69,162
Acura MDX	2015	06/03/2014 to 02/10/2015	45,860
Acura MDX	2016	08/27/2014 to 06/20/2016	78,975
Acura MDX	2017	11/24/2015 to 10/26/2017	69,407
Acura MDX	2018	06/21/2017 to 08/02/2018	40,246
Acura MDX	2019	04/11/2018 to 10/22/2018	15,340
Acura MDX Sport Hybrid	2017	07/21/2015 to 09/19/2017	2,107
Acura MDX Sport Hybrid	2018	08/24/2017 to 07/25/2018	1,320
Acura MDX Sport Hybrid	2019	08/02/2018 to 10/12/2018	480

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was determined based on manufacturing records. The production 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:

All vehicles built from production start-up through October 22, 2018 are affected. As a process quality improvement effort, the tailgate lid lights incorporated gaskets resistant to deformation. The redesigned part was used in mass production vehicles built starting on October 23, 2018.

Identification of affected component:

Component: Tailgate Lid Light Assembly

Part No.:	Left	Right
	34155-TZ5-H01	34150-TZ5-H01
	34155-TZ5-H02	34150-TZ5-H02

Country of Origin: U.S.

Manufacturer: North American Lighting

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Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 322,897

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Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

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Defect description:

The gasket for the tailgate lid light can deform due to body variations in tailgate manufacturing. Prolonged exposure to low ambient temperatures and moisture may further compromise the gasket and allow for the ingress of moisture. If moisture enters the tailgate lid light, an open circuit could result in tailgate lid light failure. In some cases, the wiring harness could also short circuit and blow the fuse for some interior lighting and the exterior position lights, including the tailgate lid lights and taillights. Loss of a tailgate lid light and/or taillight reduces vehicle visibility and increases the risk of a crash.

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Chronology:

February to September 2014

Honda received complaints of exterior position light failure and launched an investigation. Honda confirmed that the failure resulted from moisture entering the tailgate lid lights, and decided to change the gasket to a more robust material and apply adhesives to provide better sealing. Since claim frequency was minimal, Honda decided to continue monitoring the market.

December 2015 to January 2016

Honda relaunched the investigation as additional complaints were received. Another design improvement was implemented to increase moisture resistance in the tailgate lid light.

March 2017 to May 2018

Honda once again reopened the investigation as the frequency of claims was not decreasing. Analyses confirmed the moisture entry path and bully mode re-creation testing matched complaints received from the field. Honda collected parts from the field to understand the scope of tailgate lid light failure and possible repair methods.

October 23, 2018

As a process quality improvement effort, tailgate lid lights incorporating gaskets resistant to deformation was applied on the assembly line.

March 21, 2019

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

As of March 21, 2019, Honda has received 4,414 warranty claims, 17 field reports, and no reports of crash or injuries related to this issue.

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Program for remedying the defect:

Registered owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an Acura dealer. If either tailgate lid lights are disabled, the dealer will replace both tailgate lid lights and inspect/replace the corresponding fuse for free. If both tailgate lid lights operate properly, the dealer will modify the tailgate lid lights and install updated gaskets and a wiring sub-harness for free.

Owners who have paid to have these repairs completed at their own expense will be eligible for reimbursement, according to the recall reimbursement plan on file with NHTSA.

The estimated date to start notification to dealers: 03/29/2019

The estimated date to start notifications to owners: 04/29/2019

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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.

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

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Manufacturer's campaign number: M49