

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

REVIEWED BY:
JOHN TURLEY
APR-11-2019
John Turley

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Manufacturing of Alabama LLC
Honda Motor Co., Ltd.
Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

Manufacturer's agent: John Turley
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

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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	2018	07/10/2018 to 08/02/2018	1,798
Acura MDX	2019	07/12/2018 to 12/03/2018	11,844
Acura RLX	2019	06/13/2018 to 06/13/2018	1
Acura RLX Sport Hybrid	2019	06/01/2018 to 08/04/2018	304
Acura TLX	2019	06/29/2018 to 10/05/2018	7,031
Honda Odyssey	2019	06/27/2018 to 02/20/2019	21,265
Honda Pilot	2018	06/27/2018 to 07/16/2018	6,236
Honda Pilot	2019	07/10/2018 to 09/25/2018	34,583
Honda Ridgeline	2019	06/27/2018 to 11/21/2018	10,884

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:

Supplier manufacturing records identified specific timing belt production lots that were affected by an improper manufacturing process. Timing belts used in mass production have lot traceability, which allow similar vehicles to be excluded from the recall as these vehicles were equipped with parts manufactured using a proper process.

Identification of affected component:

Component: Belt, Timing
Part No.: 14400-R9P-A01
Country of Origin: Japan
Manufacturer: Gates Unitta Asia Company

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Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 93,946

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Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 1%

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Defect description:

The teeth on an improperly hardened timing belt are susceptible to separation. Teeth separation from the timing belt adversely affects engine valve timing and may result in an engine stall, which increases the risk of a crash.

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Chronology:

May 2018

The supplier for the timing belt began production with additional molds to increase capacity.

August to October 2018

Honda received the first claim of an engine stall from a defective timing belt and launched an investigation. Three additional claims were received during this period.

December 2018

The timing belt supplier confirmed that teeth separation from the timing belt resulted from an improperly hardened timing belt. The supplier continued its investigation to determine the cause of this improper manufacturing.

February to March 2019

Re-creation tests performed by the supplier confirmed that a particular mold used in production starting from May 2018 does not allow the timing belt to properly vulcanize and harden. This particular mold was modified to prevent pressure leakage, and when combined with a bottom plate that has the moisture drain path partially blocked with excess rubber deterioration, the undrained moisture adversely affected vulcanization.

April 4, 2019

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

As of April 4, 2019, Honda has received 15 warranty claims, 15 field reports, and no reports of crashes 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 or Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the lot number on the timing belt and, if it is within the suspect range, replace the timing belt for free. Vehicles receiving a replacement timing belt will also have the engine inspected and any damaged components will be replaced for free.

Because the new vehicle limited 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.

The estimated date to start notification to dealers: 04/12/2019
The estimated date to start notifications to owners: 06/01/2019

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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: L4M, Z4L