

**HONDA**

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

November 20, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Giuseppe  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Part 573, Defect Information Report  
2021 Model Year Honda Pilot  
OE Tire

Dear Mr. Giuseppe:

In accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance and Responsibility Reports, Honda is submitting the enclosed Defect Information Report regarding a safety recall of certain 2021 model year Honda Pilot vehicles to address a defect with the original equipment tire.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jeff Chang  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JC:wvt

## Defect Information Report

573.6(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC

**Manufacturer's agent:** Jeff Chang  
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>
Honda Pilot	2021	08/04/2020 to 08/12/2020	214

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

The recall population was determined based on supplier and manufacturing records.

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

According to the tire defect notification 20T-018 filed by Continental Tire the Americas, LLC (CTA), a total of 884 potentially affected tires with DOT serial number A376 D3K9 2920 and mold numbers S-421920 and S-421921 were applied to 2021MY Honda Pilot, 2020MY Honda Passport and Acura MDX vehicles and were released to commerce; 768 of these tires were shipped to Honda for OEM application and 116 tires were distributed throughout CTA's retail network. The 768 tires received by Honda could have been installed on up to 10,254 U.S. market vehicles. Of the 768 tires, supplier production records identified only fourteen tires potentially subject to over-curing; however, only four of these tires actually exceeded the supplier's cure time threshold and thus resulted in compromised tires. Based on tire serial numbers, shipping records narrowed these four tires down to two shipping trailers, with two tires per trailer. Shipping records also confirmed Honda's two in-factory tire failures were linked to the same trailer, so the remaining two over-cured tires were isolated to a single shipping trailer.

The vendor responsible for wheel assembly (wheel, tire, and TPMS) maintained records for the tire serial number during receiving, and separately the DOT serial number, mold number, and TPMS ID number during assembly. These records indicate that the two over-cured tires received from the supplier were limited to three lots of wheel assemblies that were shipped to Honda. Each wheel assembly lot is designated for 72 vehicles, so the overall scope is 216 vehicles. Using the TPMS ID numbers, Honda determined that these wheel assemblies were installed on 216 Honda Pilot vehicles, of which 214 were U.S. market vehicles. Vendor records also indicated that only 14 of these wheel assemblies match the suspect DOT serial number and mold number, so the tire replacement remedy will be limited to these 14 wheel assemblies.

**Identification of affected component:**

Component: CrossContact LX Sport 245/50R20 102 H  
Part No.: 42751-TG7-A24, 42751-TG7-Y20  
Country of Origin: U.S.  
Manufacturer: Continental Tire the Americas, LLC.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 214

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** 7%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

According to defect notification 20T-018 filed by CTA, certain affected tires have an over-cure condition. Affected tires may experience a carcass break in the sidewall with sudden air loss or could develop a belt edge separation that could lead to a partial or full tread/belt loss. These conditions increase the risk of a crash or injury. The tires may exhibit visible localized tread wear that may manifest as excessive vibration and/or bulging in the tread area, which could serve as a possible warning to owners.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

August 12 – 21, 2020

Honda had two separate incidents at the factory where a single tire burst on a newly manufactured vehicle. Honda launched an investigation, and the tires were returned to the supplier for analysis.

September 2 – 11, 2020

The supplier sent the failed tires to its German laboratory for analysis and confirmed both tires were over-cured.

September 14, 2020

The supplier informed Honda that certain tires may have been over-cured due to errors in the curing process. Honda placed a yard hold on all vehicles at the factory that had tires installed with DOT serial number and mold numbers that matched the suspect tires.

September 24, 2020

The supplier notified NHTSA of a potential defect involving Honda vehicles (20T-018).

October 27, 2020

The supplier amended defect notification 20T-018.

November 6, 2020

Honda met with NHTSA to discuss defect notification 20T-018.

November 13, 2020

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

As of November 13, 2020, Honda has not received any warranty claims, field reports, nor reports of injuries or crashes related to this issue.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

Registered owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect all four tires and replace tires with the affected DOT serial number and mold number for free. Owners who have paid to have these repairs completed at their own expense will be eligible for reimbursement, in accord with the recall reimbursement plan on file with NHTSA.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to start notification to dealers:** November 21, 2020  
**The estimated date to start notifications to owners:** January 11, 2021

573.6(c)(10)

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

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letter, and other dealer communications 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.

573.6(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:** U8Y