

HONDA

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

December 10, 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
2013-2015 Model Year Honda Accord
Drive Shaft

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 2013-2015 model year Honda Accord vehicles to address a defect with the drive shaft.

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:wt

Defect Information Report

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

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 Accord	2013	TBD	TBD
Honda Accord	2014	TBD	TBD
Honda Accord	2015	TBD	TBD

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

The recall population was determined based on manufacturing, sales, and vehicle registration records. The manufacturing 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:

The recall is specific to vehicles sold or ever registered in the salt-belt region (Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin). There have been no reports of occurrences outside the salt-belt region.

Only vehicles configured with a 4-cylinder engine and continuously variable transmission had drive shafts installed that were assembled with a lubricant during a specific production period. Some similar vehicles with the same drivetrain configuration are not included in the recall because: 1) the drive shafts in those vehicles were assembled outside the specific production period when the lubricant was used; or 2) the drive shafts installed in those vehicles were from a different supplier.

Identification of affected component:

Component:	<u>Drive Shaft Assy., L.</u>	<u>Drive Shaft Assy., R.</u>
Part No.:	44306-T2A-A50	44305-T2A-A50
Country of Origin:	U.S.	
Manufacturer:	Honda of America Mfg., Inc.	

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: TBD

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The drive shafts installed in affected vehicles were assembled with a lubricant that accelerated the degradation of the drive shafts' protective coating. A drive shaft with a degraded protective coating is more susceptible to damage from road debris. In salt-belt states where de-icing agents are used to maintain the roadway, the de-icing agents could accumulate on the damaged areas of the drive shaft and corrode it. A corroded drive shaft could break under high torque application, and the engine will no longer propel the vehicle in any gear. The vehicle may also roll away if the parking brake has not been set (even if the gear selector had been placed in the Park position). Both conditions increase the risk of a crash or injury without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

October to November 2017

Honda received the first report of a broken drive shaft. The failed part was returned from the field for analysis and no manufacturing defects were found.

August to December 2018

After receiving additional market claims, Honda launched an investigation in tandem with reports of broken drive shafts in other Honda vehicles. Material analysis of failed return parts found damage to the drive shaft's protective coating from chemical agents and Honda began corrosion growth speed testing.

February to May 2019

Investigations identified that a specific lubricant was used as an assembly aid from February 2013 to September 2014, which coincided with the same period when the broken driven shafts were produced. The lubricant was found to interfere with the protective coating adhesion process.

November 2019

A different drive shaft supplier was used in mass production and to supply replacement service parts to the market from October 2014. Analysis of these parts found no problems with the protective coating or other factors related to corrosion.

June to October 2020

Based on the corrosion growth speed testing started in late 2018, the data was analyzed to understand the factors resulting in a broken drive shaft and the expected longevity of in-market parts.

December 3, 2020

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

As of November 24, 2020, Honda has received 189 warranty claims, and no field reports nor reports of crashes or injuries 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 for corrosion-related protective coating deformities near the drive shaft's dynamic damper. If there are deformities within 40mm of the dynamic damper, both left and right drive shafts will be replaced for free. No repairs will be completed on vehicles not meeting the 40mm requirement, as it is estimated the drive shaft will not break for the remaining expected life of the vehicle. 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: December 11, 2020
The estimated date to start notifications to owners: February 1, 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: U9C (placeholder)