

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 Acura ILX
2013 Model Year Acura ILX Hybrid
2012 Model Year Honda Civic Hybrid
2007-2014 Model Year Honda Fit
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 Acura ILX, 2013 model year Acura ILX Hybrid, 2012 model year Honda Civic Hybrid, and 2007-2014 model year Honda Fit 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 Automobile China Co., Ltd.
Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, LLC
Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

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>
Acura ILX	2013	TBD	TBD
Acura ILX	2014	TBD	TBD
Acura ILX	2015	TBD	TBD
Acura ILX Hybrid	2013	TBD	TBD
Honda Civic Hybrid	2012	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2007	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2008	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2009	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2010	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2011	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2012	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2013	TBD	TBD
Honda Fit	2014	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.

Additional model-specific information as follows:

Acura ILX / ILX Hybrid	Honda Civic	Honda Fit
The 2014 – 2015 model year hybrid vehicles are not included in the recall as the drive shafts installed in these vehicles were from a different supplier.	The non-hybrid vehicles are not included in the recall as the vehicle layout protects the drive shaft from road debris.	Only 2007 – 2008 model year vehicles with an automatic transmission are included in the recall. Vehicles with a manual transmission are installed with drive shafts of a different design. All 2009 – 2014 model year vehicles are included in the recall regardless of transmission type.

Identification of affected component:

Component:			Drive Shaft Assy., R.	Drive Shaft Assy., L.
Part No.:	2013-15	Acura ILX	44305-TX6-305	44306-TX6-315
	2013	Acura ILX Hybrid	44305-TR2-305	44306-TR2-305
	2012	Civic Hybrid		
	2007-08	Honda Fit (AT)	44305-SLN-305 44305-SLN-L00	44306-SLN-305 44306-SLN-L00
	2009-14	Honda Fit (AT)	44305-TK6-305	44306-TK6-305
	2009-14	Honda Fit (MT)	44305-TK6-316	N/A (different design)

Country of Origin: Japan
 Manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: TBD

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 1%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The drive shafts' protective coating application process may not allow the protective coating to properly adhere to the drive shaft installed in affected vehicles. A drive shaft with an improperly adhered 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 for vehicles with automatic/continuously variable transmission). Both conditions increase the risk of a crash or injury without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

September to November 2017

Honda received the first report of a broken drive shaft in an Acura ILX and launched an investigation.

February 2018

Honda identified that during drive shaft assembly, certain drive shafts were allowed to cool to room temperature due to equipment stoppage on the assembly line or were taken off-line for repairs. A running change was implemented to ensure all drive shafts remained at the specified temperature throughout the assembly process.

September to October 2018

Honda received another report of a broken drive shaft, which was the first report involving a Honda Fit. Honda continued its investigation.

July to December 2019

The investigation was expanded to include global support. Since the suspect population of vehicles were no longer covered under warranty, a parts collection activity was launched.

April to October 2020

Data from the parts collection activity was analyzed to understand the factors resulting in a broken drive shaft and the expected longevity of in-market parts. The analysis concluded that the broken drive shafts were allowed to cool to a temperature below specification prior to application of the protective coating. The reduced temperature decreased the protective coating's adhesion, increasing the likelihood of damage and corrosion. Occurrences were also limited to drive shafts utilizing a shear-type dynamic damper, which are more susceptible to corrosion from de-icing agents.

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 152 warranty claims, 10 field reports, and no reports of crashes or injuries related to this issue.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

Depending on the parts availability, registered owners of some affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Acura or Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect both left and right drive shafts for corrosion-related protective coating deformities near the drive shaft's dynamic damper. If there are deformities near the dynamic damper (40mm for Honda Civic Hybrid and Fit, 50mm for Acura ILX and ILX Hybrid), the drive shaft will be replaced for free. Drive shafts that do not meet the 40mm/50mm requirement will not be replaced as it is estimated the drive shafts will not break for the remaining expected life of the vehicle.

Registered owners of affected vehicles that have limited parts availability will be notified in an interim notification that the parts necessary to repair their vehicles are currently unavailable. Honda will send a second notification when parts become available, and the dealer will inspect/repair the vehicles 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: 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:

E9B: Acura ILX and ILX Hybrid (placeholder)

A9A: Honda Civic Hybrid and Fit (placeholder)