

HONDA

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

December 2, 2021

Ms. Anne Collins
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 Acura RDX and 2022 Model Year Honda CR-V Hybrid
Front Drive Shaft

Dear Ms. Collins:

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 Acura RDX and 2022 model year Honda CR-V Hybrid vehicles to address a defect with the front drive shaft.

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

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Chang", with a stylized, cursive script.

Jeff Chang
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JC:wt

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Development and Manufacturing of America, 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>
Acura RDX	2021	09/28/2021 – 09/28/2021	41
Honda CR-V Hybrid	2022	09/28/2021 – 10/01/2021	238

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

The recall population was determined based on supplier and manufacturing records. The production range reflects all possible vehicles that could experience the problem.

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

Similar vehicles produced outside the specified manufacturing range above had front drive shafts installed that were built to specification.

Identification of affected components:

Component: Drive Shaft Assy., Right or Left

Part No.:	Right	Left
Acura RDX	-	44306-TJB-A51
Honda CR-V Hybrid	44305-TMA-H01	44306-TMA-H01

Country of Origin: U.S.

Manufacturer: NTN Driveshaft Anderson, Inc.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 279

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

A component in the right or left front drive shaft installed in affected vehicles may have received improper heat treatment, resulting in increased wear and premature failure. If the front drive shaft prematurely fails, the engine will not provide motive power and the vehicle may roll away if the electronic 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 personal injury.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

September 30, 2021

The supplier informed Honda of potentially suspect parts that were shipped to Honda. These potentially suspect parts were assembled with insufficiently heat-treated steel balls for the front drive shaft outboard joint sub-assembly. Honda placed these vehicles on stop-shipment as a precaution while awaiting analysis from the supplier.

Mid-October to mid-November, 2021

The supplier completed reproduction testing of the potentially suspect parts. After continued use, the steel balls could deform from heat generated by the drive shaft, resulting in outboard joint sub-assembly seizure and drive shaft failure. The supplier also confirmed with the Tier-2 supplier of the steel balls that only specific production lots received abnormal heat treatment due to improper air/gas mixture and temperature variation from furnace misfires.

November 25, 2021

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

As of November 25, 2021, Honda has not received any warranty claims, 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 bring their vehicle to an authorized Acura or Honda dealer. The dealer will replace the right or left front drive shaft as applicable, for free. Owners who have paid to have these repairs completed at their own expense will be eligible for reimbursement in accordance with the recall reimbursement plan on file with NHTSA.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to start notification to dealers: December 3, 2021

The estimated date to start notifications to owners: January 24, 2022

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 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.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number: BBY, NBW, OBX