



Applies To: See VEHICLES AFFECTED

October 11, 2002

Warranty Extension: 3.2TL and 3.2CL Automatic Transmission

BACKGROUND

In certain vehicles, a higher than normal number of automatic transmissions may have defects in material or workmanship that could cause premature wear or failure. To ensure that customers have adequate warranty coverage, American Honda is increasing the warranty on the transmission (including solenoids) and the torque converter to 7 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

VEHICLES AFFECTED

- 2000-02 3.2TL: All
- 2003 3.2TL (except Type S):
From VIN 19UUA5...3A000001
thru 19UUA5...3A019556
- 2003 3.2TL Type S:
From VIN 19UUA5...3A000001
thru 19UUA5...3A019061
- 2001-02 3.2CL: All
- 2003 3.2CL (all models):
From VIN 19UYA42...3A000001
thru 19UYA42...3A005203

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles will be mailed a notification of the warranty extension. A copy of the notification is at the end of this service bulletin. In most cases, the owner should have a copy of the notification. If the owner has misplaced it, do a VIN status inquiry on the IN to see if the vehicle is covered.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

If standard diagnostics confirm an internal problem with the torque converter or the automatic transmission, replace the affected part.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP #	FRT	Description
218181	5.5	Replace torque converter
218180	5.5	Replace transmission and torque converter

- Failed Part: Use the "RM" part number (from the repair order) without the "RM"
Example: 06200-PAX-A000
- Defect Code: 5AT
- Contention Code: L73
- Part used for repair: Use the "RM" part number (from the repair order)
Example: 06200-PAX-A000RM
- Skill Level: Repair Technician

DIAGNOSIS

Before you make any repairs, do these checks:

- Make sure the complaint is not a normal characteristic of the vehicle. If possible, compare the vehicle to another of the same model and year. Refer to these normal operating characteristics to prevent unnecessary torque converter or A/T replacement.
 - **Quick downshifts.** The transmission's grade logic system compares the vehicle's memorized driving conditions with current conditions, and shifts the transmission accordingly. When going down a hill, even a light touch of the brake pedal can cause grade logic to downshift to the next lower gear. Downshifting helps to slow the vehicle through engine braking.
 - **Does not always shift through the full range of gears.** This can also be caused by the grade logic system keeping the transmission in its optimum gear for different driving conditions.
 - **Mechanical noise when selecting a forward or reverse gear.** It's normal to hear a slight mechanical noise when moving the shift lever from one gear to another. This noise can sound abnormally loud if any of the windows are down and you are parked next to a wall or another vehicle.



- Vehicle may not hold its position when stopped on an incline in gear (may roll backward when the brake pedal is released). This can occur on most Acura-made vehicles. It is one of the measures used to improve fuel economy.
- Hard shifts before the engine warms up. By design, the transmission shifts a little harder when the engine is cold. It returns to smoother shifting when the engine warms up.
- Check ISIS for any service bulletins or ServiceNews articles that cover the complaint.
- Check the fluid level of the transmission, and make sure it's filled with Honda ATF-Z1. Other brands of ATF can affect shift quality and lock-up performance.
- Check the adjustment of the AT shift cable.
- Check the PCM for DTCs. Sometimes, electrical problems cause the same symptoms as internal transmission problems.
- Do the road test, stall speed test, and pressure tests described in the appropriate service manual.

If your diagnosis confirms a problem with the torque converter, install a new one. Order the torque converter through normal parts channels.

If your diagnosis confirms an internal transmission problem, do not disassemble it; replace the transmission/torque converter with a remanufactured unit. For information on obtaining a remanufactured transmission/torque converter, refer to Service Bulletin 90-009, *Automatic Transmission In-Warranty Exchange Program*.

October 2002

Automatic Transmission Warranty Extension

Dear 3.2TL and 3.2CL Owners:

American Honda is announcing a warranty extension for the automatic transmission on all 2000-02 3.2TLs, all 2001-02 3.2CLs, and some 2003 3.2TLs and 3.2CLs. The automatic transmission and torque converter are now covered for a total of 7 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first, from the date of original sale. We are providing the warranty extension because a higher than normal number of automatic transmissions in certain vehicles may have problems due to defects in material or workmanship beyond the 4-year, 50,000-mile new vehicle limited warranty.

How do I know if there is a problem with my vehicle's automatic transmission?

If you think your vehicle has a transmission problem, refer to the operating characteristics below. Understanding these characteristics can help you decide if you need to call your Acura dealer.

These characteristics are normal; they should not require you to call your Acura dealer.

- **Quick downshifts.** The transmission has a computerized control system called grade logic. When going down a hill, even a light touch of the brake pedal can cause grade logic to downshift to the next lower gear. Downshifting helps to slow the vehicle through engine braking.
- **Does not always shift through the full range of gears.** This can also be caused by the grade logic system keeping the transmission in the optimum gear for different driving conditions.
- **Mechanical noise when selecting a forward or reverse gear.** It's normal to hear a slight mechanical noise when moving the shift lever from one gear to another. This noise can sound abnormally loud if any of the windows are down and you are parked next to a wall or another vehicle.
- **Vehicle may not hold its position when stopped on an incline in gear (may roll backward when the brake pedal is released).** This can occur on most Acura-made vehicles. It is one of the measures used to improve fuel economy.
- **Hard shifts before the engine warms up.** By design, the transmission shifts a little harder when the engine is cold. It returns to smoother shifting when the engine warms up.

These characteristics are not normal; if you experience any of them, call your Acura dealer.

- While driving, the D5 indicator on the instrument panel flashes.

D5 INDICATOR



- An abnormally loud noise from the transmission.
- Extremely slow or delayed gear engagement, upshifts, or downshifts.
- Abnormal gear slippage during upshifts or downshifts.
- Erratic or excessively harsh shifting.
- Automatic transmission fluid (ATF) leaks.

If you already paid to have the transmission repaired or replaced, refer to the reimbursement form included with this letter.

It's important to maintain your vehicle's transmission according to the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual. Not maintaining the transmission properly can void the warranty coverage.

Please keep a copy of this letter in your glove box, along with your warranty information booklet.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division

October 11, 2002

Dear Service Manager:

On 2000-02 TLs, 2001-02 CLs, and some 2003 TLs/CLs, a higher than normal number of automatic transmissions may have defects in material or workmanship that could cause premature wear or failure. American Honda is extending the warranty for the transmission (including solenoids) and the torque converter on these vehicles to 7 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

For affected vehicle information, refer to service bulletin #02-027, Warranty Extension: 3.2TL and 3.2CL Automatic Transmission. Since this is not a campaign, there is no campaign responsibility report.

Repair Strategy

Use the diagnostic checks in service bulletin #02-027 to find out if the vehicle has a defective torque converter or transmission. If the torque converter is defective, replace it with a new part; if the transmission is defective, replace it with a remanufactured unit. Please make sure the torque converters and transmissions you replace have internal defects. If you return a part without an internal defect, the cost will be debited to your dealer.

Customer Notification

On October 3, a customer notification of the warranty extension was posted on Acura's consumer website, acura.com. Notifications will also be mailed to all owners of affected vehicles over several weeks, starting later this month. Refer to service bulletin #02-027 for the text of this notification.

To check vehicle eligibility, make sure the customer has a notification letter or do a VIN Status Inquiry on the IN.

Parts Information

Torque converters are available through normal parts channels. Transmissions are available through the automatic transmission remanufacturing program. For details on ordering a transmission, refer to service bulletin #90-009, Automatic Transmission In-Warranty Exchange Program.

Sincerely,

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Acura Automobile Division

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