

August 24, 2020

Version 3

9-Speed A/T Hard Upshift with Steady Acceleration

Supersedes 20-015, dated April 1, 2020, to revise the information highlighted in yellow.

AFFECTED VEHICLES

Year	Model	Trim Level	VIN Range
2016 - 19	MDX	ALL	ALL
2020	MDX	AWD	5J8YD4...LL000001 thru 5J8YD4...LL011456
2020	MDX	2WD	5J8YD3...LL000001 thru 5J8YD3...LL003798
2015	TLX	2WD V6 9-Speed A/T	Transmission serial number above Q5J...60408
2015	TLX	AWD V6 9-Speed A/T	Transmission serial number above Q5L...25932
2016-17	TLX	2WD V6 9-Speed A/T	ALL
2016-17	TLX	AWD V6 9-Speed A/T	ALL

REVISION SUMMARY

- Under AFFECTED VEHICLES, models were added.
- Under CORRECTIVE ACTION, a note was added.
- Under WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION, additional information was added.
- Under SOFTWARE INFORMATION, versions were updated and models were added.
- Under REPAIR PROCEDURE, the PCM Idle learn was added for 2015-16 TLX model years.

SYMPTOM

The transmission has intermittent harsh or jerky upshifts with steady acceleration.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

There are abnormal TCM adaptation values in the TCM software.

NOTE

Make sure the vehicle has at least **500 miles** on the odometer because it takes that long for the TCM to adapt to the client's driving pattern.

CLIENT INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Acura automobile dealer.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Update the TCM.

NOTE

- This software update repairs intermittent harsh or jerky shifts that happen during steady acceleration. For any other symptoms, continue with normal system troubleshooting.
- Have the service manager or service consultant explain to the client that after the TCM update, it will take about **500 miles** for the TCM to adapt to the client's driving pattern.
- On 2015 TLX models, look at the transmission serial number as it may have had a replacement transmission. If it is before the serial number in the affected models refer to SB 15-040.
- 2015-16 model years will require a PCM idle learn after the update. Failure to do so will cause a hard shift and a comeback.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

The normal warranty applies.

2015-16 Model Years

Operation Number	Description	Flat Rate Time	Defect Code	Symptom Code	Template ID	Failed Part Number
1255D0	Update the TCM software.	0.2 hr	03214	03217	B20015B	28103-5NB-A51
B	Do the PCM Idle learn procedure	0.1 hr				

2017-20 Model Years

Operation Number	Description	Flat Rate Time	Defect Code	Symptom Code	Template ID	Failed Part Number
1255D0	Update the TCM software.	0.2 hr	03214	03217	B20015A	28101-5DH-A40

Skill Level: Repair Technician

SOFTWARE INFORMATION

NOTE

Unnecessary or incorrect repairs resulting from a failure to update the diagnostic and reprogramming software are not covered under warranty.

Before beginning the repair, make sure all diagnostic and reprogramming software are updated as listed.

i-HDS Software Version	1.006.004 or later
HDS Software Version	3.104.002 or later
J2534 Rewrite Software Information	
PC Application Version	1.2.1.1 or later
Database Update	02-JUL-2020 or later
Notice DB Version	02-JUL-2020 or later

Update only the systems and software listed in this service bulletin.

Do not use the MongoosePRO VCI for this service bulletin as it is not an American Honda-approved device.

For more information about updating vehicle systems, refer to service bulletin 01-026, *Updating Control Units/Modules*.

MDX						
Year	Model	Drivetrain	Trim Level	Notes	Vehicle System	Program ID (or later)
2016	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5NB-A510
2016	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech	w/ Acura Watch Plus	TCM	28103-5NB-A610
2016	MDX	2WD	Advance		TCM	28103-5NB-A710
2016	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5NC-A510
2016	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech	w/ Acura Watch Plus	TCM	28103-5NC-A610
2016	MDX	SH-AWD	Advance		TCM	28103-5NC-A710
2017	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5NB-A110
2017	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech	w/ Active Cruise Control	TCM	28103-5NB-A210
2017	MDX	2WD	Advance	w/ Active Cruise Control and Idle Stop	TCM	28103-5NB-A310
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5NC-A110
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech	w/ Active Cruise Control and Idle Stop	TCM	28103-5NC-A210
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Advance	w/ Active Cruise Control and Idle Stop	TCM	28103-5NC-A310
2017	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech	VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	28103-5NB-B110
2017	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech	w/ Active Cruise Control and VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	28103-5NB-B210
2017	MDX	2WD	Advance	w/ Active Cruise Control, Idle Stop, and VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	20103-5NB-B310
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech	VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	28103-5NC-B110
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech	w/ Active Cruise Control and VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	28103-5NC-B210
2017	MDX	SH-AWD	Advance	w/ Active Cruise Control, Idle Stop, and VINs starting with 5J8 only	TCM	28103-5NC-B310
2018	MDX	2WD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5LX-A100
2018	MDX	2WD	Advance		TCM	28103-5LX-A200
2018	MDX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5DH-A100

MDX cont.						
Year	Model	Drivetrain	Trim Level	Notes	Vehicle System	Program ID (or later)
2018	MDX	SH-AWD	Advance		TCM	28103-5DH-A200
2019-20	MDX	2WD	All		TCM	28101-5LX-A400
2019-20	MDX	SH-AWD	All		TCM	28101-5DH-A400

TLX						
Year	Model	Drivetrain	Trim Level	Notes	Vehicle System	Program ID (or later)
2015-17	TLX	2WD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5J4-A710
2015-17	TLX	2WD	Advance		TCM	28103-5J4-A810
2015-17	TLX	SH-AWD	Tech		TCM	28103-5L9-A310
2015-17	TLX	SH-AWD	Advance		TCM	28103-5L9-A810
2017	TLX	2WD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5J4-A110
2017	TLX	2WD	Advance		TCM	28103-5J4-A210
2017	TLX	SH-AWD	Base/Tech		TCM	28103-5L9-A110
2017	TLX	SH-AWD	Advance		TCM	28103-5L9-A210

REPAIR PROCEDURE

NOTES

- Make sure the 12-volt battery is fully charged before starting an update.
 - Connect a fully charged jumper battery to the vehicle, and leave it connected during the entire procedure to maintain steady voltage.
 - Do not use the GR8 battery diagnostic station; the vehicle requires a steady electrical current.
 - Control module failure caused by the improper completion of a software update (early key cycle, low battery voltage, disconnected DLC cable, etc.) is not covered by warranty.
 - If an error occurs during the update or the i-HDS freezes, **do not disconnect the battery or turn the ignition to OFF**. Reboot the i-HDS, and start over.
 - To prevent control unit damage, do not operate anything electrical (headlights, audio system, brakes, A/C, power windows, door locks, etc.) during the update.
 - Warranty reimbursement for technician labor is not allowed for **routine** checking/installation of any available software update.
1. Verify the customer concerns for the intermittent harsh or jerky upshift with steady acceleration.

NOTE

This service bulletin does not apply to vehicles with a hard downshift or hard upshift using the paddle shifters or vehicles with under **500 miles** on the odometer. In this case, follow normal system troubleshooting.

2. Update the TCM software using the J2534 Rewrite software with the DST-i. Refer to service bulletin 01-026, *Updating Control Units/Modules*.

NOTE

Have the service manager or service advisor explain to the customer that after the TCM update, it will take about **500 miles** for the TCM to adapt to the customer's driving pattern.

3. Clear any DTC's caused by the update.

2015 and 2016 model years only: Do the idle learn procedure as follows:

4. Make sure all electrical items (A/C, audio, lights, etc.) are turned off.
5. Reset the PCM with the i-HDS.
6. Turn the ignition to ON, and wait **2 seconds**.
7. Start the engine, and hold the engine speed at **3,000 rpm** without load (in Park or Neutral) until the radiator fan comes on or the engine coolant temperature reaches **194°F (90°C)**.
8. Let the engine idle for about **5 minutes** with the throttle fully closed. If the radiator fan comes on, **do not** include its running time in the **5 minutes**.
9. Make sure the idle learn reads **COMPLETED** in the **PGM-FI Data List**.
10. Turn the ignition to OFF.
11. Jump the SCS line with the i-HDS.
12. Wait **60 seconds**, then exit the SCS mode with the i-HDS.

END