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

14V-351
(3 pages)

June 19, 2014

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Honda and Acura Driver Airbag Inflator Safety Improvement Campaign

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On June 19, 2014 Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) decided to conduct a safety improvement campaign for the driver's airbag inflator in certain model year Honda and Acura vehicles listed below. Honda has not made a determination that a safety defect exists, however we are choosing to participate in the collection of parts in order to support ongoing investigation.

As discussed with NHTSA ODI staff, this safety improvement campaign is not being conducted under the Safety Act. We are submitting this letter in a format consistent with the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 573 for the sake of clear communication; however Honda does not have sufficient information to reach a defect determination at this time.

Name of manufacturer:
Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Honda Mfg. of Alabama, LLC (HMA)
Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (HAM)
Honda of Canada Mfg., Ltd. (HCM)
Honda of the U.K. Mfg., Ltd. (HUM)
Honda de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (HDM)

Manufacturer's agent:
Jay Joseph
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

Certain model year Honda and Acura vehicles that are currently registered in, or were first sold in geographic locations known for high absolute humidity: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Make/Model	Description
Honda Accord (4-cylinder)	All 2001-2007 model year
Honda Accord (V6)	All 2001-2002 model year
Honda Civic	All 2001-2005 model year

Honda CR-V	All 2002-2006 model year
Honda Element	All 2003-2011 model year
Honda Odyssey	All 2002-2004 model year
Honda Pilot	All 2002-2007 model year
Honda Ridgeline	All 2006 model year
Acura MDX	All 2003-2006 model year
Acura TL/CL	All 2002-2003 model year

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

The vehicle population was based on manufacturing records and market occurrences of the involved symptom.

Identification of component:

Component:	Driver's Airbag Inflator
Country of Origin:	USA
Manufacturer:	T.K. Holdings, Inc.
Contact Name	Kazuo Higuchi
Address:	888 16th Street NW - Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006
Telephone No.:	(202) 729-6332

Total number of vehicles: TBD

Condition:

Certain Honda and Acura vehicles operated in areas that are known for high absolute humidity may contain a driver's (frontal) airbag inflator that could produce excessive internal pressure. If an airbag deploys with excessive internal pressure, it may cause the inflator to rupture. In the event of an inflator rupture, metal fragments could pass through the airbag cushion material possibly causing injury or fatality to vehicle occupants.

Timeline:

Aug 6, 2013	Honda received a claim via a NHTSA Hotline complaint of an energetic deployment of a driver's airbag inflator in Florida, outside of the previous recall range. This is the only occurrence outside of the recall range in a Honda or Acura vehicle.
Oct 10, 2013	Honda inspected the vehicle involved in the allegation of the energetic airbag deployment and confirmed the affected airbag module serial number.
Oct 22, 2013	Honda and Takata began a joint investigation with the manufacturer of the airbag inflator.
Jan 22, 2014	Honda and Takata provided an interim investigation report to NHTSA ODI, and continued investigating potential causes of the inflator rupture.

Jan-Jun, 2014	Honda and Takata conducted part collection and analysis, focusing on the same production lot as the ruptured inflator.
May, 2014	Takata received approval from the owner of the vehicle that experienced the inflator rupture to conduct material testing and other analysis on the parts retrieved from the vehicle.
Jun 13, 2014	NHTSA contacted Honda to discuss the possibility of conducting a safety improvement campaign to support the ongoing investigation of the cause of energetic driver's airbag inflators, focusing on locations in the U.S. that experience high absolute humidity levels and high temperatures.

Campaign Plan:

The owners of all vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda or Acura automobile dealer. The dealer will replace the driver's airbag inflator, free of charge. Owner notification letters will reference this being conducted as a safety recall.

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	TBD
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	TBD
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	TBD
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	TBD
Proposed owner notification letter submission:	June 19, 2014

Manufacturer's campaign number: TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Jay Joseph
Assistant Vice President
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:cmb