



U.S. Department
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

February 22, 2008

MR. WILLIAM R. WILLEN
MANAGING COUNSEL
PRODUCT REGULATORY OFFICE
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE CA 90501-2746

NVS-215kjs
08E-013

Subject: AFTERMARKET HITCH STYLE BIKE RACK

Dear MR. WILLEN:

This letter serves to acknowledge American Honda Motor Company, Inc.'s (Honda) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect for the products listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

ACURA/08L14-E09-200/9999
ACURA/08L14-TA1-200/9999
ACURA/MDX/2003-2008
HONDA/08L14-E09-100/9999
HONDA/08L14-TA1-100/9999
HONDA/PILOT/2003-2008
HONDA/RIDGELINE/2003-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08E-013

Mfg's Report Date: January 30, 2008

Components: EQUIPMENT: MECHANICAL: CARRIER/RACK

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2,032

Summary:

HONDA IS RECALLING 2,032 HITCH STYLE BIKE RACKS SOLD AS AFTERMARKET FOR USE ON MY 2003-2007 AND SOMEMY 2008 HONDA PILOT, RIDGELINE, AND ACURA MDX VEHICLES. A PINCH BOLT EXISTS BETWEEN THE BIKE ARM BRACKET AND THE UPRIGHT ASSEMBLY OF THE "HITCH" STYLE BICYCLE RACK.

Consequence:

WHEN MOVING THE BIKE ARM BRACKET TO ITS DOWN POSITION, THIS PINCH BOLT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF CAUSING SEVERE LACERATION OR AMPUTATION TO THE USER'S FINGERTIPS OR HAND.

Remedy:

OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT THULE AT 800-THULE91 (800-848-5391) TO OBTAIN A FREE REPAIR KIT ALONG WITH REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS OR OWNERS MAY CONTACT HONDA AT 310-783-2000 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 30119 (d)(2), notification shall be sent by first class mail to the most recent purchaser known to the manufacturer. In addition, if the Secretary decides that public notice is required for motor vehicle safety, public notice shall be given in the way required by the Secretary after consulting with the manufacturer. If sufficient owner data is not available for mailed notification, other means of notifying owners of this recalled equipment must be utilized.

Please submit a remedy plan to the Recall Management Division (RMD) which includes the methods Honda will use to notify owners. This must include a timeline in which Honda estimates this will be completed and Honda's expectation of the effectiveness of the communication method. Please note that dealer technical service bulletins are not alone sufficient for notifying *purchasers* of recalled equipment.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@DOT.GOV, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person", written in a cursive style.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement