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By Recall Management Division at 2:34 pm, Sep 28, 2012

HONDA

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

September 27, 2012

**12V-222
(4 pages)
Expansion**

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: Recall Notification
2003-2007 Model Year Honda Accord
Power Steering Hose**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On September 20, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the Power Steering Hose of certain 2003-07 model year Honda Accord automobiles, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)

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

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord V6	Certain 2003 model year	1HGCM66853A000030 - 1HGCM66503A104253 June 6, 2002 to September 3, 2003
Honda Accord V6	Certain 2004 model year	1HGCM82714A000021 - 1HGCM66594A104964 July 10, 2003 to August 25, 2004
Honda Accord V6	Certain 2005 model year	1HGCM66885A000008 - 1HGCM66575A080455 July 22, 2004 to August 24, 2005

Honda Accord V6	Certain 2006 model year	1HGCM82766A000017 - 1HGCM66526A075973 July 20, 2005 to August 4, 2006
Honda Accord V6	Certain 2007 model year	1HGCM82257A000001 - 1HGCM66527A106415 July 19, 2006 to August 29, 2007

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

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

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 573,147

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Prolonged exposure to high temperatures from under the hood and the power steering fluid may cause the power steering hose to deteriorate prematurely. This can lead to cracks in the hose which can result in the leaking of power steering fluid. Leaking fluid on a hot catalytic converter will generate smoke, a burning smell and could potentially result in an under-hood fire.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

April 25, 2012	AHM started an investigation into Accord V6 power steering hose failures after issuing a recall on 2007-2008 Acura TL power steering hose (12V-222) to determine if Accord V6 vehicles could experience the same consequence.
May 2-17, 2012	American Honda sent 6 parts collected in the market from Honda dealers to HAM for investigation.
June 9, 2012	AHM received a report of under hood fire from a dealer involving a 2006 model year Honda Accord. AHM requested the return of the power steering hose to HAM for analysis by Honda. To date this was the first and only allegation of a power-steering hose related fire received by Honda involving an Accord.
June 13, 2012	HAM sent 6 market hoses to the supplier for investigation.
July 9, 2012	HAM received the suspect power steering hose from the 2006 Accord involved in the fire allegation.

July 20, 2012	Supplier investigation reported that the 6 market hoses exhibited signs of heat damage.
July 23, 2012	HAM investigation of the hose from the fire allegation showed leakage and characteristics consistent with heat damage. The part was then sent to the Honda Motor Auto Quality Analysis Office in Japan (AQAO) for investigation.
Aug. 2, 2012	HAM issued a Quality Analysis Request Sheet (QARS) to AQAO to determine the root cause of the observed failure.
Aug. 3, 2012	AQAO received the suspect power steering hose from the fire event.
Aug. 15, 2012	AQAO completed on-car testing and sent the suspect hose to the supplier for additional analysis.
Aug.16-29.2012	The supplier received and analyzed the suspect power steering hose.
Aug. 29.2012	HAM and AQAO met to discuss the results of the analysis that had been completed at that point.
Aug.30.2012	The supplier reported to AQAO that their observation showed damage being present in the suspect component.
Sept. 12, 2012	HAM proposed market action for the affected Honda Accord population to the members of the committee responsible for the quality of vehicles in North America.
Sept. 20, 2012	Honda Motor Company (HMC) decided that a defect exists in 2003-2007 model year Honda Accord vehicle power steering hoses, and that a safety recall was necessary.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

Due to the need to produce parts using a new rubber material that is less susceptible to high-temperature deterioration and cracking, the parts necessary to repair customers vehicles will not be available until early 2013. As a result, it will be necessary to inform owners of the potential existence of the defect in an initial notification followed by a second notification informing the owner when the remedy parts are available to them.

Customers currently experiencing power steering fluid leakage in the power steering hose will be provided with a replacement power steering hose of the original materials. Due to the high-mileage nature of the failure, these power steering hoses will require subsequent replacement with a hose of the new material.

When the new power steering hoses are available, the owners will receive the second letter instructing them to take their vehicle to a Honda dealer. The dealer will install a new heat resistant power steering hose, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: 9/27/2012

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: 9/27/2012

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: 10/26/2012

The estimated date of completion of the notification: 11/21/2012

573.6(c)(9)

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.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

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:

S59; Inspection
S60; Remedy

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:clm