

RECEIVED
2008 FEBRUARY 5
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

08E-013
(6 pages)

HONDA

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

January 30, 2008

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

On July 2, 2007, American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the accessory "hitch" style bicycle rack for 2003-2007 and some 2008 model year Honda Pilot, Ridgeline and Acura MDX vehicles, 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 Equipment Manufacturer: Thule, Inc.
42 Silvermine Road
Seymour, CT 06483
(203) 881-4875

Reporting Vehicle Manufacturer's agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of affected vehicle equipment:

<u>Component Name</u>	<u>Honda Part Number</u>
Bicycle rack - Honda	08L14-TA1-100 08L14-E09-100
Bicycle rack - Acura	08L14-TA1-200 08L14-E09-200

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

The bicycle racks included in this population had the potential for a pinch hazard as identified by the equipment manufacturer.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of bicycle racks sold to dealers: 2,032

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected trailer hitch kits that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

A pinch point exists between the bike arm bracket and the upright assembly of the "hitch" style bicycle rack. When moving the bike arm bracket to its down position, this pinch point has the potential of causing a severe laceration or amputation to the user's fingertips or hand.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 29, 2007	Thule, Inc. submitted 573 report to NHTSA
August 2007	AHM inventory returned to Thule; New part number issued for bicycle racks with retro fit kit; AHM issued dealer message instructing dealers to contact customers and direct them to Thule.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

A Receiver Hitch Retro Fit Kit is available from Thule for Honda dealers or retail customers to order.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The date notification was sent to dealers: Aug. 14, 2007

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer messages are attached (Attachment 1)

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

Campaign number not issued

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis

Attachment

Attachment 1

Sent Message

Division Honda Acura MC PE
Delivery Message ONLY Message and e-mail e-mail ONLY
Viewable 08 14 2007 to 08 24 2007
From Parts Division
To (Dealers) ALL DEALERS
Attention
 All iN Users Dir Sys Coordinator Dealer Principal General Mgmt
 Sales Mgmt Sales Personnel Internet Sales Mgmt Used Car Mgmt
 Service Mgmt Service Personnel F & I Mgmt F & I Personnel
 Parts Mgmt Parts Personnel Business Mgmt Admin Personnel
 EXCELL Facilitator iN Administrator
Cc (AHM) ALL PARTS AND SERVICE DISTRICT OFFICES, ALL PARTS AND SERVICE NATIONAL OFFICES, ALL PARTS AND SERVICE ZONE OFFICES, ALL PARTS CENTER OFFICES, ALL PARTS DISTRICT OFFICES, ALL PARTS NATIONAL OFFICES, ALL PARTS ZONE OFFICES
Subject AIN37804: 2003-08 Pilot & 2006-08 Ridgeline Accessory Hitch Mounted Bike Attach
Message

ID: AIN37804

To: All Honda Parts and Service Managers
 From: AHM Parts Technical Dept.
 Re: 2003-2008 Pilot and 2006-2008 Ridgeline Accessory Hitch Mounted Bike Attachment

This supersedes a previous message, AIN37574, dated 7/3/07.

Background

Due to concerns that a pivoting portion of the accessory bike attachment has the potential to pinch the user's finger, a replacement rubber protector has been developed to help protect a user from pinching a finger.

Action

If you have the following bike attachments in your inventory, you can order the rubber protector free of charge from Thule via their toll-free number, (800) 848-5391.

Affected Part Numbers

Affected Part Numbers	Affected HC	Description
08L14-TA1-100	7860984	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment
08L14-E09-100	8563223	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment

New Part Numbers

AHM inventory will be reworked and have the following new part number:

New Part Number	New HC	Description
08L14-E09-101	8813594	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment

Customer Notification

Information will be provided to customers via Owner Link.

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
 Parts Division
 Parts Technical Dept.

Archive After Expiration Date

Sent Message

Division Honda Acura MC PE
Delivery Message ONLY Message and e-mail e-mail ONLY
Viewable 08 | 14 | 2007 to 08 | 24 | 2007
From Parts Division
To (Dealers) ALL DEALERS
Attention All iN Users Dir Sys Coordinator Dealer Principal General Mgmt
 Sales Mgmt Sales Personnel Internet Sales Mgmt Used Car Mgmt
 Service Mgmt Service Personnel F & I Mgmt F & I Personnel
 Parts Mgmt Parts Personnel Business Mgmt Admin Personnel
 EXCELL Facilitator iN Administrator
Cc (AHM) ALL PARTS AND SERVICE DISTRICT OFFICES, ALL PARTS AND SERVICE NATIONAL OFFICES, ALL PARTS AND SERVICE ZONE OFFICES, ALL PARTS CENTER OFFICES, ALL PARTS DISTRICT OFFICES, ALL PARTS NATIONAL OFFICES, ALL PARTS ZONE OFFICES
Subject BIN37805: 2003-2007 MDX Accessory Hitch Mounted Bike Attachment
Message

ID: BIN37805

To: All Acura Parts Managers
 From: AHM Parts Technical Dept.
 Re: 2003-2007 MDX Accessory Hitch Mounted Bike Attachment

This supersedes a previous message, BIN37575, dated 7/3/07.

Background

Due to concerns that a pivoting portion of the accessory bike attachment has the potential to pinch the user's finger, a replacement rubber protector has been developed to help protect a user from pinching a finger.

Action

If you have the following bike attachments in your inventory, you can order the rubber protector free of charge from Thule via their toll-free number, (800) 848-5391.

Affected Part Numbers

Affected Part Numbers	Description
08L14-TA1-200	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment
08L14-E09-200	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment

New Part Numbers

AHM inventory will be reworked and have the following new part number:

New Part Number	Description
08L14-E09-201	Hitch Mount Bike Attachment

Client Notification

Information will be provided to clients via Owner Link.

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
 Parts Division
 Parts Technical Dept.

Archive After Expiration Date