

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

February to December 2015

Honda received the first warranty claims for the second row left outboard seatback not locking into place. The root cause of the failure was unable to be determined and Honda decided to continue monitoring the field for related incidents.

January to October 2016

Honda performed reproduction and cause analysis on returned warranty parts from the market, but experienced difficulty in reproducing the customer contentions due to the parts' condition (damaged).

November 2016

Honda was able to reproduce the seatback not locking into place with healthy parts from the supplier. Seatback recliner failure was caused by the pawl in the seat recliner disc separating from the guide plate, preventing the seatback from locking.

December 2016 to March 2017

Parts were collected from healthy cars in the market for additional analysis. Honda identified that cam rotation angle increases when using the walk-in lever compared to the recliner lever. The supplier also confirmed that a manufacturing error deformed the left side recliner lever stopper tab, which offsets the adjustment rod and increases the cam rotation angle. The combined increase to the cam rotation angle contributed to pawl separation from the guide plate.

March to August 2017

Continued analysis found that the guide plate, which secures the pawl in the seat recliner disc, may have higher than specified embossment heights due to variations in manufacturing stamping. The variation in the guide plate's inner embossments can increase the gap in the seat recliner disc, contributing to pawl separation from the guide plate.

September 2017 to March 2018

Honda confirmed that both of the following conditions must exist for the pawl to separate from the guide plate: 1) increased cam rotation angle from walk-in lever usage and left side recliner lever stopper tab deformation, and 2) increased gap in the seat recliner disc from variation in the guide plate's inner embossment height. Honda and the supplier investigated the probability of future occurrences and the range of potentially affected vehicles.

March 6, 2018

Honda determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of March 6, 2018 Honda has received 354 warranty claims, and no field reports or reports of injuries related to this safety defect.