



Warranty Extension: Accord, Odyssey, and Prelude Automatic Transmission (Supersedes 02-062, dated October 11, 2002)

BACKGROUND

In certain vehicles, a higher than normal number of automatic transmissions may have defects in material or workmanship that could cause premature wear or failure. To ensure that customers have adequate warranty coverage, American Honda is increasing the warranty on the transmission (including solenoids) and the torque converter to 7 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of affected vehicles were mailed a notification of this warranty extension. A copy of this notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

This warranty extension does not apply to any vehicle that has ever been declared a total loss, or any that has been issued a salvage, branded, or similar title under any state's law. To check for vehicle eligibility, you must do a VIN status inquiry on the *iN*.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

If standard diagnostics confirm an internal problem with the torque converter or the automatic transmission, replace the affected part.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

| OP # | Description | FRT |
|-------------|---|---|
| 218181 A | Replace torque converter | Accord: 5.5 (for V6 add 0.5) Odyssey: 6.0 Prelude: 4.9 |
| 218180 A | Replace transmission and torque converter | Accord: 5.5 (for V6 add 0.5) Odyssey: 6.0 Prelude: 4.9 |

Failed Part: Use the "RM" part number (from the repair order) without the "RM"
Example: 06200-PAX-A000

Defect Code: 5AT

Contention Code: L72

Part used for repair: Use the "RM" part number (from the repair order)
Example: 06200-PAX-A000RM

Skill Level: Repair Technician

DIAGNOSIS

Before you make any repairs, do these checks:

- Make sure the symptom is not a normal characteristic of the vehicle. If possible, compare the vehicle to another of the same model and year. Refer to these normal operating characteristics to prevent unnecessary torque converter or A/T replacement.
 - **Quick downshifts.** The transmission's grade logic system compares the vehicle's memorized driving conditions with current conditions, and shifts the transmission accordingly. When going down a hill, even a light touch of the brake pedal can cause grade logic to downshift to the next lower gear. Downshifting helps to slow the vehicle through engine braking.
 - **Does not always shift through the full range of gears.** This can also be caused by the grade logic system keeping the transmission in its optimum gear for different driving conditions.
 - **Mechanical noise when selecting a forward or reverse gear.** It's normal to hear a slight mechanical noise when moving the shift lever from one gear to another. This noise can sound abnormally loud if any of the windows are down and you are parked next to a wall or another vehicle.
 - **Vehicle may not hold its position when stopped on an incline in gear** (may roll backward when the brake pedal is released). This can occur on most Honda-made vehicles. It is one of the measures used to improve fuel economy.
 - **Hard shifts before the engine warms up.** By design, the transmission shifts a little harder when the engine is cold. It returns to smoother shifting when the engine warms up.
- Check ISIS for any service bulletins or ServiceNews articles that cover the symptom.
- Check the fluid level of the transmission, and make sure it's filled with Honda ATF-Z1. Other brands of ATF can affect shift quality and lock-up performance.
- Check the adjustment of the A/T shift cable.
- Check the PCM or TCM (Preludes) for DTCs. Sometimes, electrical problems cause the same symptoms as internal transmission problems.

- Do the road test, stall speed test, and pressure tests described in the appropriate service manual.

If your diagnosis confirms a problem with the torque converter, install a new one. Order the torque converter through normal parts channels.

If your diagnosis confirms an internal problem with the transmission, *do not disassemble it*; replace the transmission/torque converter with a remanufactured unit. For information on obtaining a remanufactured transmission/torque converter, refer to Service Bulletin 98-061, *Automatic Transmission In-Warranty Exchange Program*.

Example of Customer Letter

October 2002

Automatic Transmission Warranty Extension

Dear Accord, Odyssey, and Prelude Owners:

American Honda is announcing a warranty extension for the automatic transmission on all 2000-01 Accords, Odysseys, and Preludes. The automatic transmission and torque converter are now covered for a total of 7 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first, from the date of original sale. We are providing the warranty extension because a higher than normal number of automatic transmissions in certain vehicles may have problems due to defects in material or workmanship beyond the 3-year, 36,000-mile new vehicle limited warranty.

How do I know if there is a problem with my vehicle's automatic transmission?

If you think your vehicle has a transmission problem, refer to the operating characteristics below.

Understanding these characteristics can help you decide if you need to call your Honda dealer.

These characteristics are normal; they should not require you to call your Honda dealer.

- *Quick downshifts.* The transmission has a computerized control system called grade logic. When going down a hill, even a light touch of the brake pedal can cause grade logic to downshift to the next lower gear. Downshifting helps to slow the vehicle through engine braking.
- *Does not always shift through the full range of gears.* This can also be caused by the grade logic system keeping the transmission in the optimum gear for different driving conditions.
- *Mechanical noise when selecting a forward or reverse gear.* It's normal to hear a slight mechanical noise when moving the shift lever from one gear to another. This noise can sound abnormally loud if any of the windows are down and you are parked next to a wall or another vehicle.
- *Vehicle may not hold its position when stopped on an incline in gear (may roll backward when the brake pedal is released).* This can occur on most Honda-made vehicles. It is one of the measures used to improve fuel economy.
- *Hard shifts before the engine warms up.* By design, the transmission shifts a little harder when the engine is cold. It returns to smoother shifting when the engine warms up.

These characteristics are not normal; if you experience any of them, call your Honda dealer.

- While driving, the D4 indicator on the instrument panel flashes.

D4 INDICATOR



- An abnormally loud noise from the transmission.
- Extremely slow or delayed gear engagement, upshifts, or downshifts.
- Abnormal gear slippage during upshifts or downshifts.
- Erratic or excessively harsh shifting.
- Automatic transmission fluid (ATF) leaks.

If you already paid to have the transmission repaired or replaced, refer to the reimbursement form included with this letter.

It's important to maintain your vehicle's transmission according to the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual. Not maintaining the transmission properly can void the warranty coverage.

Please keep a copy of this letter in your glove box, along with your warranty information booklet.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

**American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Automobile Division**