



Applies To: **2007 Element** – ALL

April 17, 2010

**2008 Element 2WD** – From VIN 5J6YH1...8L000001 thru 5J6YH1...8L015906

**2008 Element 4WD** – From VIN 5J6YH2...8L000001 thru 5J6YH2...8L018137

**2007-08 Odyssey** – ALL

## Safety Recall: Air In VSA Modulator-Control Unit Causes Low/Soft Brake Pedal (Supersedes 10-017, dated April 13, 2010, to revise the information marked by the black bars)

### REVISION SUMMARY

- Under **REQUIRED MATERIALS**, the requirement for 99% isopropyl alcohol was changed to isopropyl alcohol.
- Under **WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION**, template IDs were added.
- Under **REPAIR PROCEDURE**, important changes were made to steps 3, 4, and 9.

### BACKGROUND

The two plugs that seal the sides of the VSA modulator-control unit may allow a small amount of air to enter the brake system during system initialization at vehicle start-up. Over time, enough air can enter the modulator to make the brake pedal lower and softer than normal. In rare cases, excessive air entering the VSA modulator-control unit could lower the vehicle's braking performance, increasing the risk of a crash.

### CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

Owners of affected vehicles will receive a notification of this campaign. An example of the customer notification is at the end of this service bulletin.

Not all vehicles in the Applies To range are affected by this campaign. To verify vehicle eligibility, you **must** check at least one of these items:

- The customer has a notification letter.
- The vehicle is shown as eligible on a VIN status inquiry.

In addition, check for a punch mark above the fifth character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means this campaign has already been completed.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your used vehicle inventory. As a matter of federal law, these vehicles **must** be repaired before they are sold.

Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes an injury or damage because of the recalled item, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify American Honda for any resulting claims. To see if a vehicle in inventory is affected by this campaign, do a VIN status inquiry before selling it.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

Bleed the brake system using the special procedure in this service bulletin, then install two modulator sealing caps over the two plugs on the sides of the VSA modulator-control unit.

### PARTS INFORMATION

Modulator Sealing Cap (two required):  
P/N 57119-SHJ-305

### TOOL INFORMATION

Modulator Sealing Cap Installer: T/N 07AAB-SHJ-A120  
This tool was sent to all dealers in April 2010. To order more modulator sealing cap installers, use normal parts ordering procedures.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Honda Genuine DOT 3 Brake Fluid:  
P/N 08798-9008  
(One bottle repairs one vehicle.)

Dow Corning Toray SE 9186 White RTV Silicone:  
P/N 08734-0012  
(One tube repairs about 40 vehicles.)

Isopropyl Alcohol (commercially available)

### WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

OP#	Description	FRT
4130A5	<i>Element</i> : Bleed the brake system, and install modulator sealing caps.	0.7
4130A5	<i>Odyssey</i> : Bleed the brake system, and install modulator sealing caps.	0.8

Failed Part: *Element*: P/N 57110-SCV-A11  
*Odyssey*: P/N 57110-SHJ-964

Defect Code: 5VM00

Symptom Code: R3000

Template ID: 10-017A (Element)  
10-017B (Odyssey)

Skill Level: Repair Technician

## REPAIR PROCEDURE

### NOTE:

- Before you do steps 1 thru 4, make sure the vehicle's battery is fully charged and in good condition. If needed, attach a battery charger.
- Top-off the brake fluid reservoir as needed during the bleeding procedures (steps 3, 4, and 5). *Never let the brake fluid reservoir go dry.*

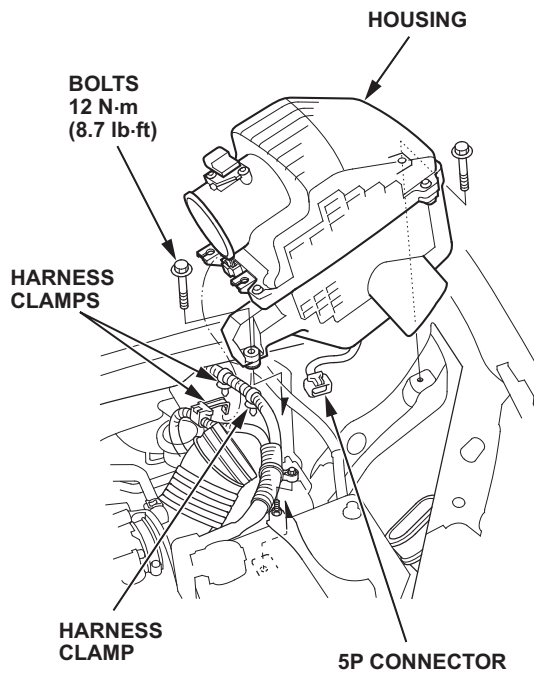
1. Connect the HDS to the vehicle's DLC.
2. On the HDS, go to the **ABS/TCS/VSA Functional Tests** screen.
3. Prime the VSA modulator pump:
  - Press and hold the brake pedal.
  - Select **Left Front VSA** on the HDS, and continue holding the brake pedal until the test is finished.
    - During the test, you don't need to be close to the wheel, and you don't need to rotate the LF wheel. When these screen prompts appear on the HDS, just press the **ENTER** button.
  - Press and hold the brake pedal again.
  - Select **Right Front VSA** on the HDS, and continue holding the brake pedal until the test is finished.
    - During the test, you don't need to be close to the wheel, and you don't need to rotate the RF wheel. When these screen prompts appear on the HDS, just press the **ENTER** button.

4. Bleed the VSA modulator:

NOTE: Do not press the brake pedal during this step.

- Raise the vehicle, then remove the front wheels.
  - Connect a clear bleed hose to the bleeder valve on the left front brake caliper. Insert the other end of the bleed hose in a container to catch the brake fluid. Position the container higher than the caliper.
  - Open the left front caliper bleeder valve.
  - Select **Left Front VSA** on the HDS; *do the left front VSA test four times in a row.*
    - During the tests, you don't need to be close to the wheel, and you don't need to rotate the LF wheel. When these screen prompts appear on the HDS, just press the **ENTER** button.
  - Close the left front caliper bleeder valve.
  - Connect the bleed hose to the bleeder valve on the right front brake caliper. Insert the other end of the bleed hose in the container to catch the brake fluid. Position the container higher than the caliper.
  - Open the right front caliper bleeder valve.
  - Select **Right Front VSA** on the HDS; *do the right front VSA test four times in a row.*
    - During the tests, you don't need to be close to the wheel, and you don't need to rotate the RF wheel. When these screen prompts appear on the HDS, just press the **ENTER** button.
  - Close the right front caliper bleeder valve.
5. Manually bleed the brake system:
    - With the help of an assistant, manually bleed the front brake calipers until you get clear fluid and no bubbles. This usually takes at least two bleeding procedures.
    - Manually bleed the rear brake calipers until you get clear fluid and no bubbles. This usually takes at least five bleeding procedures.
    - Reinstall the front wheels, then lower the vehicle.

6. *Odyssey only*: Remove the air cleaner housing:
- Disconnect the MAF sensor 5P connector.
  - Remove the bolts and the harness clamps.
  - Remove the housing.



7. *Element only*: Detach the power steering reservoir from its mount on the fender, then move it out of the way.



8. Disconnect the VSA modulator-control unit 47P connector by pressing the release tab, and then pulling down (Odyssey) or up (Element) on the orange release lever; the connector then disconnects itself.

**NOTE:**

- Do not force the lever; if you break it, you need to replace the entire engine wire harness.
- If the lever won't move, make sure to press the release tab before trying to move it. If needed, wiggle the connector while moving the lever to free up the white slides on the connector.

**ODYSSEY**



Pull the release lever down.

**ELEMENT**



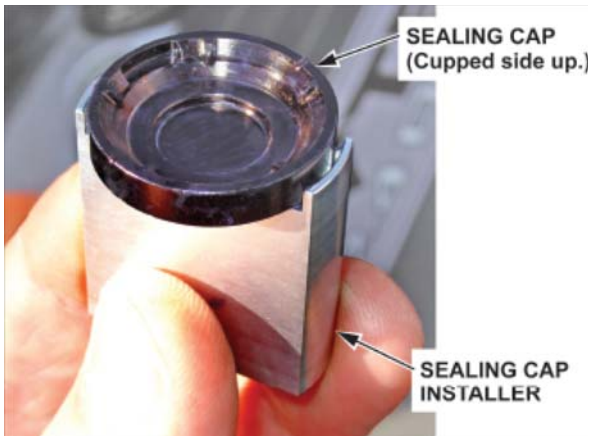
**RELEASE TAB**

9. Moisten a clean shop towel with isopropyl alcohol, then use the towel to thoroughly clean the two plugs and the surrounding areas on the sides of the VSA modulator-control unit. Allow the alcohol to dry before you continue.

NOTE: If there is corrosion on or near the modulator plugs, remove it with a scouring pad, then thoroughly clean the area with a shop towel moistened with isopropyl alcohol. Allow the alcohol to dry before you continue.



10. Insert a sealing cap into the end of the sealing cap installer, with the cupped side of the cap facing up.



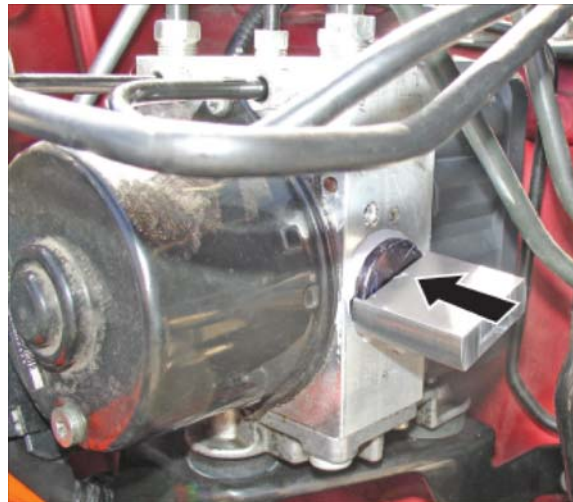
11. Fill the sealing cap half full with Dow Corning Toray SE 9186 White RTV Silicone.

NOTE:

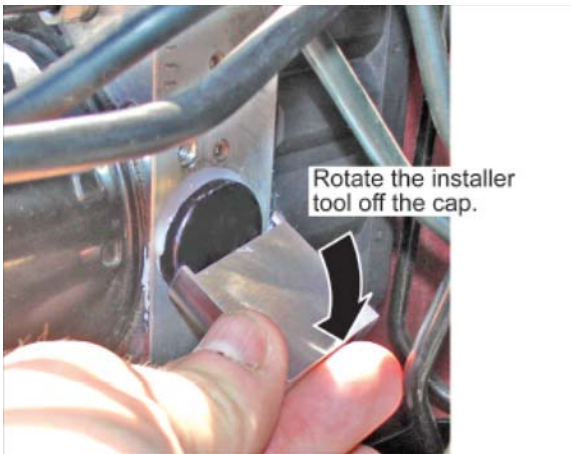
- Dow Corning Toray SE 9186 White RTV Silicone is the only sealant approved for this repair. Do not use any other type or brand of sealant.
- Keep the silicone sealant tube capped when it's not being used.



12. Center the sealing cap installer over the front plug on the VSA Modulator-control unit, and quickly press the cap squarely onto the plug.



13. Carefully tilt the installer down at an angle to remove it from the cap.



CONTINUOUS BEAD OF SILICONE SEALANT



14. Inspect the cap installation:
- The cap should fit squarely on the plug, flush to the modulator body.
  - Make sure there's a continuous bead of silicone sealant around the cap.
  - If any sealant runs from the cap, wipe off the run, but do not wipe off the cap.
  - If the sealant gets on any other parts, wipe it off immediately.
15. Repeat steps 10 thru 14 to install the second cap on the rear plug of the VSA modulator-control unit.  
NOTE: Allow the silicone sealant to cure for 15 minutes before driving the vehicle. Do not touch the caps when the sealant is curing.
16. Reconnect the VSA modulator-control unit 47P connector:
- Align the connecting surface of the connector and the VSA modulator-control unit, and press the connector against the modulator.
  - Pull up (Odyssey) or down (Element) on the orange release lever until it clicks into place.
  - Make sure the connector is fully seated.

17. *Element only*: Reattach the power steering reservoir to its mount on the fender.
18. *Odyssey only*: Reinstall the air cleaner housing.
19. Center-punch a completion mark above the fifth character of the engine compartment VIN:

Center-punch here.

5FNRXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Example of Customer Letter**

April 2010

**Safety Recall: Brake Pedal May Be Soft or Low**

Dear Honda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

**What is the reason for this notice?**

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2007–08 model year Element and Odyssey vehicles. Air may enter the brake system's VSA modulator that could result in a brake pedal that feels soft, or a pedal height that gets lower or closer to the floor before the vehicle stops which may affect braking performance, increasing the risk of a crash.

**What should you do?**

Call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. The dealer will remove any existing air from the brake system and install sealant and caps to prevent air from entering the VSA modulator. This work will be done *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your vehicle for half a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

**Who to contact if you experience problems.**

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Honda Automobile Customer Service  
Mail Stop 500-2N-7A  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your vehicle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236 (TTY 800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

**What to do if you feel this notice is in error.**

Our records show that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2007 or 2008 Element or Odyssey involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid Information Change Card. We will then update our records.

If you previously paid to have the VSA modulator replaced, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the attached Instructions for Reimbursement for the eligibility requirements and the reimbursement procedure.

**Lessor information.**

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

**If you have questions.**

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with locating a Honda dealer, please call Honda Automobile Customer Service at 800-999-1009, and select option 4.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

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

April 13, 2010

Dear Service Manager:

Honda Motor Co., Ltd., has announced a safety recall campaign for certain 2007–08 Elements and Odysseys. The two plugs that seal the sides of the brake system's VSA modulator-control unit may allow a small amount of air to enter the brake system during system initialization at vehicle start-up. Over time, enough air can enter the modulator to make the brake pedal lower and softer than normal. In rare cases, excessive air entering the VSA modulator-control unit could lower the vehicle's braking performance, increasing the risk of a crash.

### **Repair Strategy**

The repair is to bleed the brake system using a procedure designed for this repair, and then install two modulator sealing caps over the two plugs on the sides of the VSA modulator-control unit. For repair, parts, tools, and warranty information, refer to Service Bulletin 10-017, *Safety Recall: Air In VSA Modulator-Control Unit Causes Low/Soft Brake Pedal*.

Some vehicles affected by this campaign may be in your used vehicle inventory. As a matter of federal law, these vehicles must be repaired before they are sold. Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes an injury or damage because of the recalled item, the dealership will be solely responsible to the damaged party, and will be required to defend and indemnify American Honda for any resulting claims.

To see if a vehicle is affected by this campaign, make sure the customer has a notification letter or do a VIN status inquiry. In addition, check for a punch mark above the fifth character of the engine compartment VIN. A punch mark in that location means this campaign has already been completed.

### **Customer Notification**

Affected Element vehicle owners will be mailed a notification of this campaign beginning in mid-April 2010. Affected Odyssey vehicle owners will be mailed a notification beginning the first week of May 2010.

### **Tool and Parts Information**

The tool used to install modulator sealing caps (Modulator Sealing Cap Installer, T/N 07AAB-SHJ-A12) was auto-shipped to you in mid-April 2010. Modulator sealing caps and the sealant used to adhere them are being allocated based on the number of vehicles sold by your dealership. We will let you know, by iN message, when the caps and the sealant are available for ordering.

Sincerely,

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