



Applies To: **2007–11 Element – ALL**

**September 19, 2012**

## Safety Recall: Accessory Trailer Hitch Wire Harness Is Mis-Wired (Supersedes 12-057, dated August 31, 2012, to revise the information marked by the black bars)

### REVISION SUMMARY

- Under CORRECTIVE ACTION, the reorder number for the Campaign Status Change Request form was added.
- An example of the customer notification letter was added.

### BACKGROUND

About 100 accessory trailer hitch wire harnesses may have an incorrectly wired connector. As a result, when towing a trailer, the turn signals on the trailer operate only while braking. This condition significantly increases the risk of a crash.

### CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

All owners of potentially affected vehicles will be sent a notification of this safety recall in September 2012.

Some vehicles affected by this recall may be in your new or used vehicle inventory. As a matter of Federal law, the harnesses in these vehicles **must** be repaired before they are sold.

Should a dealership sell an unrepaired vehicle that subsequently causes 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 recall, do the INSPECTION PROCEDURE and, if necessary, the REPAIR PROCEDURE before selling it.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

If the vehicle is equipped with a Honda Genuine accessory trailer hitch wire harness, verify that the connector is properly wired using the 4-pin circuit tester. If the connector is not properly wired, reposition the terminals in the harness connector (see REPAIR PROCEDURE).

If the vehicle is **not** equipped with a Honda Genuine accessory trailer hitch wire harness, either you or your customer must fill out and return a *Campaign Status Change Request form* to remove the vehicle from this recall. We supplied your dealership with a small quantity of these response forms; additional forms can be ordered through Helm using reorder #Y0893.

Before doing work on a vehicle, verify its eligibility by doing an iN VIN status inquiry.

### TOOL INFORMATION

Terminal Pin Tool Set: T/N 07JAZ-002050A

4-Pin Circuit Tester: (commercially available) T/N TLT5

NOTE: One circuit tester will be shipped to each dealership starting in September 2012.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

EPT Sealer 3T: P/N 06990-SA5-000

(One roll repairs about 12 vehicles)

### WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

| OP#    | Description  | FRT |
|--------|--|-----|
| 0195A1 | Inspect the <b>Honda Genuine</b> accessory trailer hitch wire harness.                                   | 0.2 |
| A      | Add to remove, reverse affected wires, and reinstall the accessory trailer hitch wire harness connector. | 0.1 |

Failed Part: P/N 08L91-SCV-100

Defect Code: 5PJ00

Symptom Code: S5300

Skill Level: Repair Technician



**CUSTOMER INFORMATION:** The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by “do-it-yourselfers,” and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

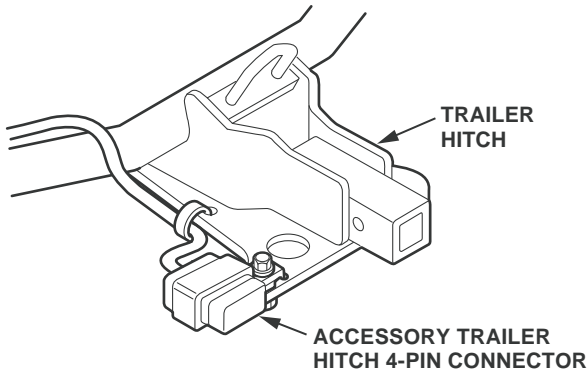
**INSPECTION PROCEDURE**

1. Inspect for a trailer hitch harness at the rear bumper.

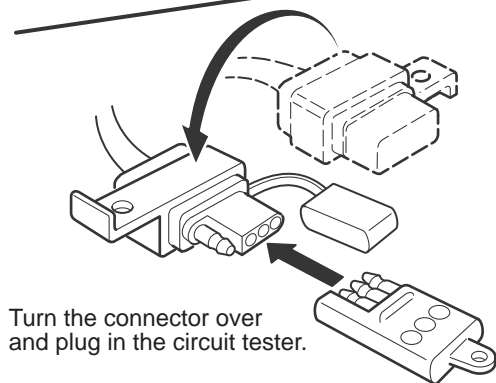
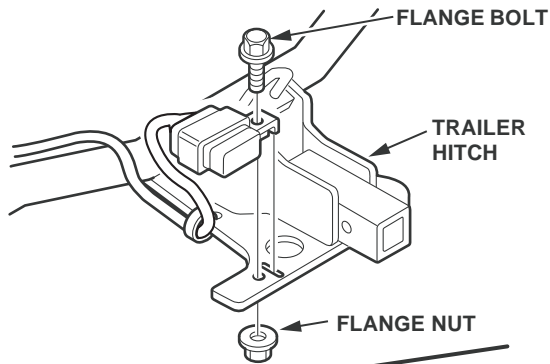
*Is a **Honda Genuine** accessory trailer hitch wire harness present at the rear bumper?*

**Yes** – Go to step 2.

**No** – Fill out a Campaign Status Change Request form if there is no harness on the vehicle, or if it is an aftermarket harness.



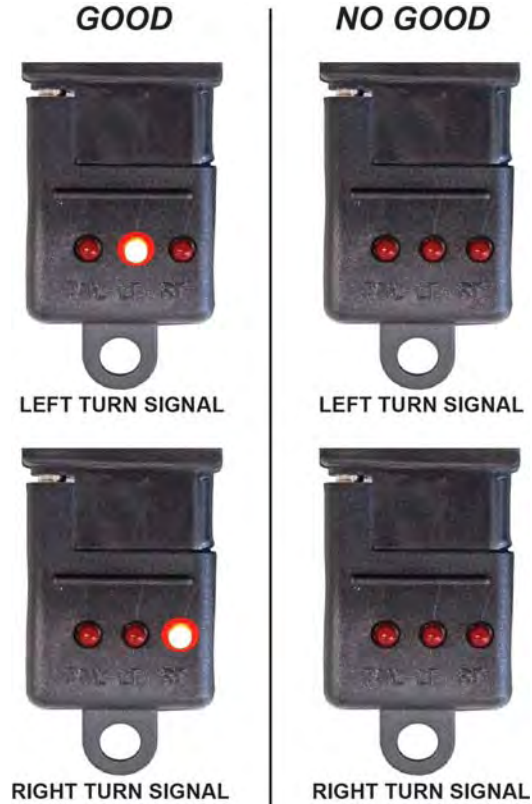
2. Remove the connector and turn it upside down. Insert the 4-pin circuit tester into the harness, then have an assistant test the turn signals and the brakes separately and together while you watch the tester.



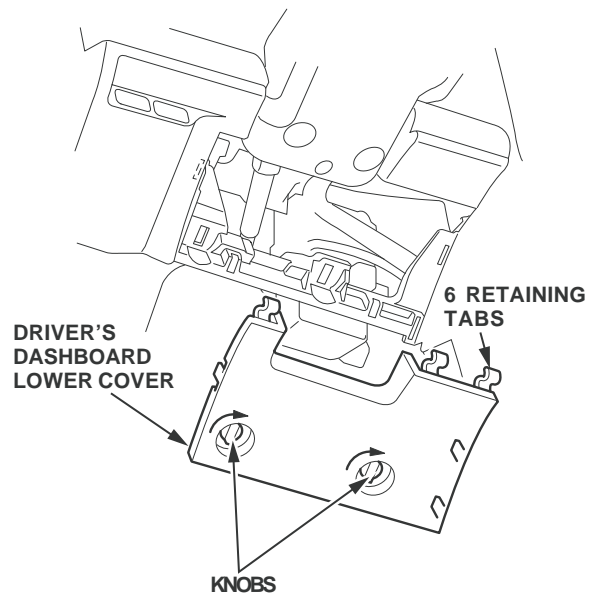
*Do the turn signals and the brake lights work correctly?*

**Yes** – No further action is needed. Reassemble and return the vehicle to the customer. Fill out a warranty claim form.

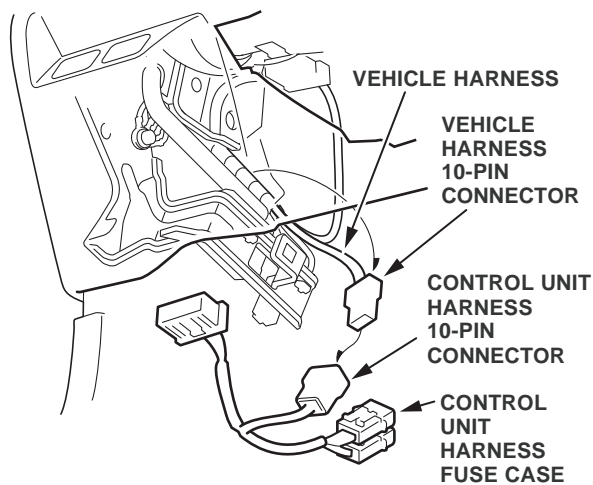
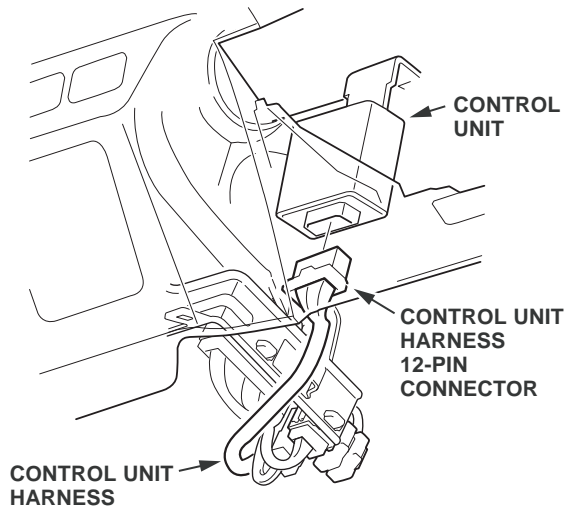
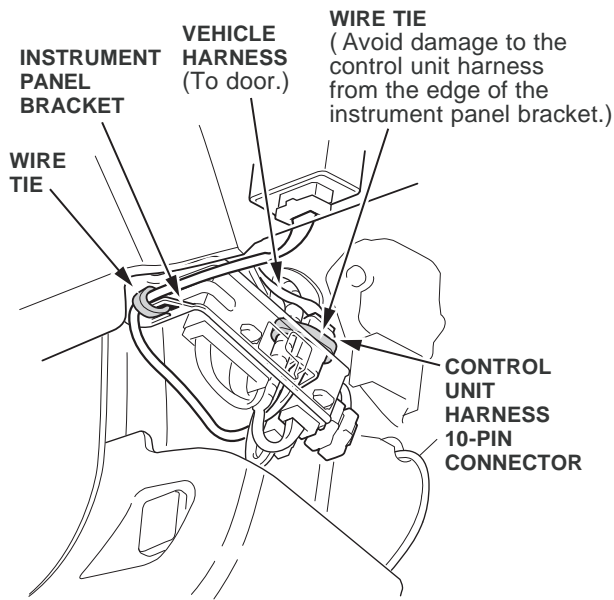
**No** – Go to step 3.



3. Remove the driver's dashboard lower cover by turning the knobs clockwise, then pull the lower cover out toward you to release the six retaining tabs.



- Disconnect the connectors and remove the trailer hitch wire control unit harness from the veh



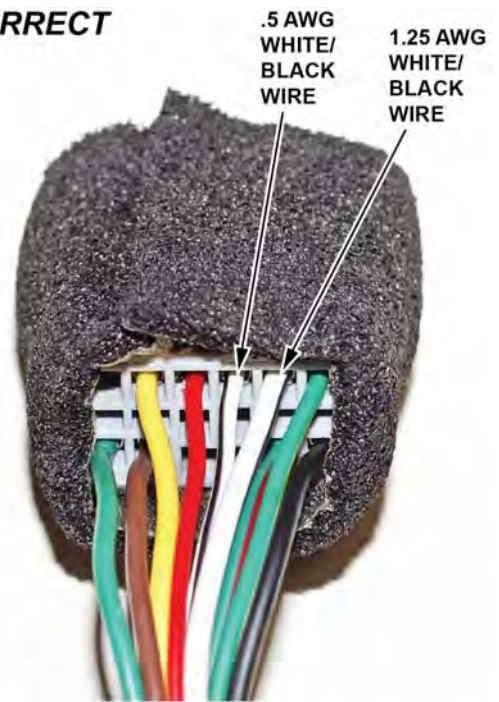
- Visually inspect the white/black wire positions at pins 8 and 9 in the 12-pin connector.

*Are they correct?*

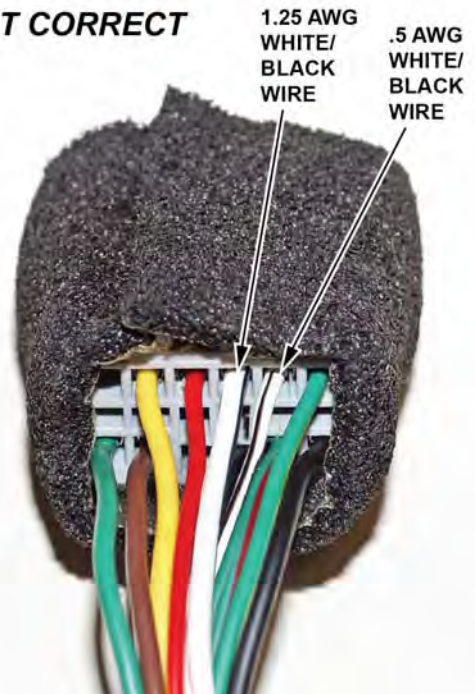
**Yes** – This bulletin doesn't apply. Follow normal troubleshooting.

**No** – Go to REPAIR PROCEDURE.

**CORRECT**



**NOT CORRECT**

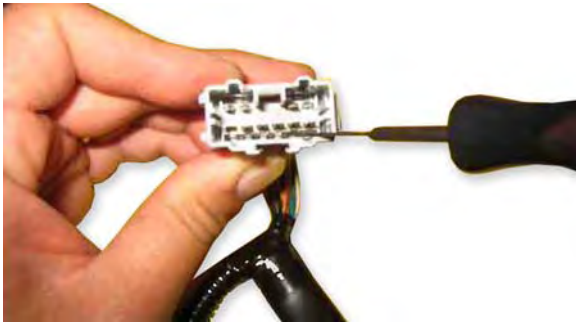


## REPAIR PROCEDURE

1. Remove the foam tape sealer from around the 12-pin connector.
2. Lift up the connector locking tab.



3. Using a terminal pin tool (T/N 07JAZ-002050A), remove the large White/Black wire and the small White/Black wire from the connector.



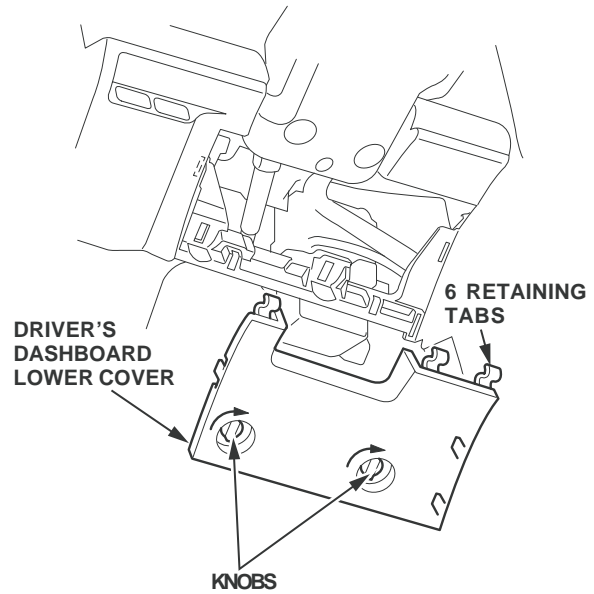
4. Insert the wires in their proper location.



5. Wrap the connector with foam tape (EPT sealer 3T), and reconnect the harness.



6. Reinstall the driver's dashboard lower cover.



September 2012

**Safety Recall: Accessory Trailer Hitch Wire Harness Is Mis-Wired – NHTSA Recall 12V-436**

Dear Honda Element 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 has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2007–2011 model year Element vehicles. If you have purchased the Honda Accessory Trailer Hitch Harness Kit, there is a potential failure with the wiring of the harness kit that may prevent a trailer's turn signal from illuminating unless the brakes are applied. The failure of the turn signal to illuminate could potentially result in a crash.

**What should you do?**

Call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired (or inspected and, if necessary, repaired) **at no cost to you**. The dealer will inspect your vehicle and repair the trailer hitch harness wiring. The complete process (inspection and, if affected, repair) may take approximately 18 minutes; however, your vehicle will need to be at the dealer for a longer period of time. We recommend that you 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 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

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

Registration records indicate that you are the current owner or lessee of a 2007–11 Honda Element involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please *complete and sign* the Information Change Card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. We will then update our records.

**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 1-800-999-1009, and select option 4. You can also locate a dealer online at [HondaCars.com](http://HondaCars.com). Customers in U.S. territories, please contact your local dealer/distributor.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,

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