

Frequently Asked Questions About the CR-V/Element Oil Filter Class Action Settlement

The Proposed CR-V Oil Filter Class Action Settlement (“Proposed Settlement”) resolves four lawsuits currently consolidated in the United States District Court for the Central District of California as *In re American Honda Motors Co., Inc. Oil Filter Products Liability Litigation*, MDL Docket No. 06-1737 (CAS).

1. What is a class action lawsuit?

A class action is a lawsuit brought by one or more plaintiffs on behalf of a group of individuals making the same or similar claims against a company or another individual.

2. What are the CR-V/Element Oil Filter Class Action lawsuits about?

Plaintiffs allege that model year 2002-2006 CR-V and model year 2003-2006 Element automobiles (the “Vehicles”) are defectively designed because the oil filters are located on the same side of the engine block as, and close to, the exhaust manifold so that leaks from the oil filters could spray oil onto a hot manifold, sometimes resulting in an under hood oil-fed engine fire. Honda denies Plaintiffs’ allegations.

3. How many fires occurred and why?

Out of approximately 960,000 Vehicles, Honda is aware of 92 reported fires. Since 2006, Honda has not received any reports of under hood oil-fed engine fires in any of the Vehicles.

In investigating the 92 reported fires, Honda determined that the fires were the result of improper oil changes performed by service technicians. Honda’s investigation revealed that the original gasket sometimes would stick to the engine block and was not completely removed by the technician during an oil change, resulting in the replacement gasket being placed over the original gasket. This created a double seal which caused oil to spray onto various engine parts, and caused under hood oil-fed engine fires in 92 of the Vehicles.

To avoid future oil change problems, Honda changed the type of gasket used on both factory-installed and OEM replacement oil filters. Honda also sent bulletins to dealers and independent service shops reminding them to check that the oil gasket from the filter that was being removed and replaced was completely removed before installing a new oil filter.

4. Are the Vehicles at risk for further fires?

Honda is not aware of any under hood oil-fed engine fires in any of the Vehicles since 2006, and there were only 92 fires out of approximately 960,000 Vehicles. It is Honda’s position that, so long as proper oil change procedures are followed, there is no increased risk of an under hood oil-fed engine fire in any of the Vehicles. Please see the Owner’s Manual insert you received with your Class Notice for proper oil-change procedures.

5. Who is a Settlement Class Member?

You are a Settlement Class Member if you are a resident of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Guam and you purchased or leased any of the Class Vehicles, which are Model Year 2002-2006 Honda CR-Vs and Model Year 2003-2006 Honda Elements.

You are a member of the Vehicle Fire Class, a sub-class of the Settlement Class, if you: (i) experienced an under-hood oil-fed engine fire in a Class Vehicle within a certain time period set forth in the class notice (time period varies with Class Vehicle Model Year); AND (ii) incurred “Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses” as a result of the fire.

“Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses” mean actual expenses incurred by owners or lessees of the Class Vehicles, such as insurance deductible payments, the loss of personal property in a Class Vehicle fire, or damage to buildings other property caused by the Class Vehicle fire. Excluded from “Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses” are claims for personal injury, any alleged “diminished value” of the Class Vehicles, or perceived underpayment for the value of a Class Vehicle after a Class Vehicle Fire.

6. What is offered under the Proposed Settlement?

The Proposed Settlement provides two benefits for Settlement Class Members:

A. Members of the Vehicle Fire Class can submit claims for reimbursement of Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses arising from an under-hood oil-fed engine fire, including losses suffered by any occupant of a Class Vehicle at the time of (and as a result of) the fire. A claim form that describes the materials to be submitted was mailed to all Class Members and also is available on the settlement website, www.crvclassactionsettlement.com. *You must have experienced an under-hood oil-fed engine fire in a Class Vehicle within the certain time period set forth in the class notice (time period varies with Class Vehicle Model Year) AND incurred “Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses” as a result of the fire in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement for any “Uninsured or Unreimbursed losses” as part of this Proposed Settlement.*

B. All Class Members should receive an insert for the Class Vehicle’s owners manual that reminds them of proper oil change procedures, which, if followed, will significantly reduce the likelihood of under hood oil-fed engine fires in the Vehicles.

7. How do I participate in the Proposed Settlement?

The deadlines for submitting claims is set forth in the settlement notice and the claims form (both available at www.crvclassactionsettlement.com), but generally are as follows:

January 31, 2010 for Model Year 2002 CR-Vs;

January 31, 2011, for Model Year 2003 CR-Vs and Elements;

January 31, 2012 for Model Year 2004 CR-Vs and Elements;

January 31, 2013 for Model Year 2005 CR-Vs and Elements; and

January 31, 2014 for Model Year 2006 CR-Vs and Elements.

8. How and when do I submit my Claim Form?

You may submit a Claim Form in accordance with the procedures specified in the settlement notice which may be viewed at www.crvclassactionsettlement.com within the time periods set forth in paragraph 7, above.

9. What if I believe I am a member of the Class but did not receive a Claim Form?

You may obtain a claim form by visiting the settlement website at www.crvclassactionsettlement.com. The website also includes a copy of the settlement agreement, the preliminary approval order, the settlement notice and the owner's manual insert, along with Class Counsel's address and contact information.

10. How will I know that my Claim Form has been received and will be processed?

Once the settlement is approved and final, the Special Master will oversee the claims fund established by the settlement, and will determine, in his sole discretion, whether claims made against the settlement fund qualify as an Uninsured or Unreimbursed loss. The Special Master's decision will be final and binding on claimants and American Honda.

If you want to be certain that your claim form is received at the Claims Processing address, above, you will need to send your claims via U.S. Postal Service with delivery confirmation requested or by certified mail, return receipt requested. American Honda will log each claim received.

11. Do I have to Participate in the Proposed Settlement?

You are not required to participate in the Proposed Settlement. If you would like to exclude yourself as a Settlement Class Member, you must send a Request for Exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you will not receive any of the benefits of the Settlement. The procedure for submitting a Request for Exclusion is outlined on page 9 of the Notice. Please note that all Requests For Exclusion must be postmarked no later than September 10, 2009.

12. What is a Plaintiff's Incentive Award?

A Plaintiff's Incentive Award is an amount of money awarded to a representative plaintiff in a class action for having performed the services of a class representative. Here, the representative plaintiffs are Richard Ammon, Scott and Malissa Bonlender, Trevor Bowen, Pauline McDevitt, Hal Pilger, Betty-Lou Sandsmark and Walter Yasensky. Accordingly, only these eight class

representatives are eligible to be paid a Plaintiff's Incentive Award, and only if the Court approves the payment of these awards by Honda to these eight individuals. This incentive award will be paid by Honda and will not reduce the amount of money available to pay for "Uninsured or Unreimbursed Losses."

13. What if I have other questions about the Proposed Settlement or my claim?

The claims procedure has been made as easy as possible. If, however, you still have questions about the Proposed Settlement or your claim, you can contact Class Counsel at the address and email listed at the settlement website, www.crvclassactionsettlement.com, or look at the information set forth at the website.