

# Bulletin ServiceLink<sup>SM</sup>



Bulletin SL3-95  
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SERVICE TIPS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIAN

## DIAGNOSIS OF HARD STEERING- HONDA ACCORD

Hard steering complaints can be caused by improper drive belt tension, low fluid level, line restrictions, a defective pump, steering gear or speed sensor. The speed sensor is seldom considered as a possible cause for hard steering, but it should be checked for proper operation before the steering gear is replaced.

To check the speed sensor begin by ensuring that the fluid is at normal operating temperature, the proper level, and the belt tension is correct. The vehicle should be sitting at normal height on a clean, dry floor. Attach a spring scale to the steering wheel and perform the following steps.

1. Engine idling.
2. Pull on scale and read the amount of resistance the moment the tires begin to move.

The scale reading should be:

- Four door models: no more than 4 pounds (18N).
- Three door models: no more than 5 pounds (23N).

If the scale reads more than specified above:

3. Stop engine.
4. Disconnect the large diameter hose running from the control valve to the speed sensor.
5. Plug the hose and sensor fitting.
6. Engine idling.
7. Perform step 2.
  - If the scale reads less than 4 lbs. (18N) replace speed sensor.
  - If the scale reads more than 4 lbs (23N) check the gear box and pump.

**NOTE:** Power steering fluid must meet Honda specification.

