



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# Memorandum

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

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Subject: Vehicle Inspection, ODI 10095527: 10/22/2004      Date: 10/26/2004  
From: D. Scott Yon  
To: File, EA04-027

**Attendees:**

Mike Bergauer, Centro Inspection Agency, representing insurer of servicing dealer  
Rob Craig, American Honda Motor Company, Inc.  
Dennis Mignogno, James F. Valentine, Jr., Inc., representing insurer of vehicle owner  
Scott Yon, NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation (ODI)

An inspection of the subject vehicle for vehicle owner questionnaire (VOQ) ODI number 10095527 (with VIN SHSRD78403U [REDACTED]) was conducted on October 22, 2004 at the Insurance Auto Auction (IAA) facility located at 100 Industrial Way, Conshohocken, PA, 19428-1058. The attendees listed above were present at the inspection. The inspection commenced at approximately noon and last for about an hour. An initial inspection was conducted with the vehicle on the ground. Afterwards, an IAA representative placed the vehicle on an elevated frame for under vehicle inspection and removal of the oil filter. On removal, the filter was found to have two sealing o-rings adhered to the filter. The o-ring which would have been in contact with the engine sealing surface was found to be distorted (see picture below). The distorted o-ring appears to have been the cause of a significant oil leak which resulted in a vehicle fire. The removed filter and o-ring seals were placed in a sealed metal can and retained by Mr. Mignogno. To NHTSA's knowledge, no other components were removed from the vehicle or taken from the IAA facility.



Picture 1: Removed Oil Filter