

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-047

Date Closed: 12/20/2005

Principal Investigator: *Bob Young*

Subject: Stalling & sudden headlight outage

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)

Products: 2002-3 Honda VFR800 motorcycles

Population: 4787

Problem Description: Circuit overload causes connector failure with resulting engine stall and/or sudden headlight outage.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	7	10
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: No defect trend identified. Close this PE

Engineer: *Bob Young*

Date: *12/20/2005*

Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd*

Date: *12/20/2005*

Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter*

Date: *12/20/2005*

Summary: ODI opened this investigation after receiving three complaints concerning alleged engine stalling and/or sudden headlight outages while underway. ODI also found numerous postings on a web-based chat board related to the subject vehicle and these allegations. Frequently, the posting referenced the "blue" connector joining the main and headlight sub-harnesses.

ODI has inspected subject motorcycles and its peers and met with their owners; discussed this matter subject motorcycle dealers and both dealer and independent service personnel, and reviewed Honda's response to our information request.

Based on the information gathered to date, it appears that most failures occur over time with the operator noting decreased performance, difficulty starting the motorcycle, a smell of melting insulation (though no fires are reported). In most instances, the problem is noted while starting the motorcycle. Indeed, many times the engine will stall when the starter button is released. In many instances, the alleged failures result from circuit overload due to installation of aftermarket electrical equipment.

Currently, no defect trend has been identified warranting further expenditure of agency resources. Should circumstances change, ODI will take appropriate action.