



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-014
Date Opened: 04/20/2015
Investigator: Robert Young
Approver: Otto Matheke
Subject: Inconsistent Throttle Control
Date Closed: 11/13/2015
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
Products: 2012-14 Honda GL1800
Population: 22,899
Problem Description: Pronounced engine stumble (near stall) when pulling away from stop with cold engine.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	36	56	92**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	0	1

***Description of Other:** <http://www.theglforum.com/forum/forum-aa/29101-the-infamous-gl1800-stumble-caught-on-video>

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: No safety-related defect trend identified. Close this PE

Summary:

This PE was opened after NHTSA received 10 owner complaints alleging vehicle control was compromised due to inconsistent throttle control in MY 2012-14 Honda GL1800 motorcycles. Typically during the first five minutes of operation (cold engine), riders would experience a pronounced engine "stumble" when operating the bike at low speeds and minimal throttle applications. Riders were concerned that this scenario would result in a crash if the stumble were to occur while making a sharp turn at low speed.

Since opening this investigation we discussed the issue with Honda motorcycle dealers and service personnel and subject vehicle owners / complainants. We test rode one complaint GL1800 and monitored web forum activity.

Based on the information gathered, the issue of low speed engine "stumble" in these motorcycles does not appear to jeopardize safety. The absence of crashes in a population of vehicles with up to 4 years in service indicates riders are able to instinctively correct for any control issue that may accrue from a low speed cold engine stumble.

In the absence of a actionable defect trend, we are closing this PE. We continue to monitor complaints and other information sources for any data that may alter this finding. If such information is found, we will respond accordingly.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at:

<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID>

using the following complaint identification numbers:

10785837,10783109,10781852,10760402,10670092,10662128,10653041,10643482,10641998,10639635,10639538,10639483,10633401,10633110,10632624,10632569,10631910,10621114,10577493,10572733,10550566,10549745,

10548741,10548568,10546436,10532817,10532620,10532347,10532553,10532249,10531538,10523914,10523890,
10523515,10523017,10512486