



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 20-013
Date Opened: 08/10/2020
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Clogged fuel filter causing a stall.
Date Closed: 01/15/2021
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
Products: 2018 - 2020 Honda African Twin (CRF 1000 - 1100) motorcycles
Population: 2,676
Problem Description: Fuel filter becomes contaminated with zinc-oxide, restricting fuel flow, and causes a sudden engine stall.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	34	123	123**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	83	83**

*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This (PE) Preliminary Evaluation is closed with safety recall 20V-797.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) on August 10th, 2020 to investigate 26 reports of stalling due to clogged fuel filters on model year (MY) 2018 - 2020 Honda African Twin (CRF 1000 - 1100) motorcycles.

Many of the owners allege the subject vehicle would suddenly stall while riding. Although the stalling speeds varied, most consumers allege the stalling occurred at highway speeds. This stalling condition is caused by clogged fuel filters. The subject vehicle fuel filters become contaminated with zinc-oxide (corrosion). The corrosion is coming from the inside of the fuel tank, along the end seam of a joint weld. The corrosion clogs the fuel filter, restricts fuel flow to the engine, and subsequently causes a sudden engine stall.

During complainant interviews, ODI learned the bikes can sometimes be restarted after the initial stall. However, several consumers described this restart as causing a false sense of security. After restarting the bike and attempting to accelerate/merge into traffic, the bike quickly stalls again. This time the rider is placed in the middle of traffic, potentially causing a crash or risk of injury.

On October 9, 2020, ODI received Honda's Information Request (IR) response and learned that Honda was aware of 36 complaints, 87 field reports and 83 warranty claims of stalling related to clogged fuel filters. There were no claims of crashes or property damage associated with the alleged defect on the subject motorcycles. Additionally, Honda initiated three different modifications or changes to the fuel tank during production. On March 11, 2020, Honda released a customer satisfaction campaign to remove the zinc oxide that can contaminate the fuel pump filter, causing

reduction of fuel flow. The part numbers for the fuel tank did not change after the implementation of the zinc oxide removal process. The process improvement was a running-change and no parts were withdrawn from production. On October 5, 2020 Honda added a new maximum contamination specification. This new specification was initiated to limit the contamination from the tank supplier. The tank supplier improved the cleaning process to meet the low contamination limit.

Discussions and analysis of the data between ODI and Honda resulted in the manufacturer recalling certain 2018-2019 Africa Twin Adventure Sports (CRF1000L) and 2020 Africa Twin Adventure Sports (CRF1100L) motorcycles. Contaminants inside the fuel tank may cause the fuel filter to clog, resulting in an engine stall, and increasing the risk of a crash.

ODI is closing this PE with Honda's voluntary safety recall 20V-797. With the recall action taken by Honda, this investigation is closed, as further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted.

The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist on other models or MY vehicles outside of the recall scope. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.