

HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone (310) 783-2000

04V-163
(3 pages)

April 1, 2004

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,
Associate Administrator
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

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2004 APR 12 A 9 05
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On March 25, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a safety-related problem exists in the fuel tank of 2003 model year Honda FSC600 scooters. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)
Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda FSC600	2003 model year	JH2PF01A*3K000004 – JH2PF01A*3K000367 JH2PF01A*3K100001 – JH2PF01A*3K102133 November 18, 2002 to February 5, 2003

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects vehicles that could have received one of the affected fuel tanks.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 2,497

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Less than 2%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

Some fuel tanks were improperly manufactured and do not meet material strength specifications. Engine vibration or riding on bumpy roads could cause these tanks to crack and leak. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire.

Detail

During manufacturing, oil was used to prevent the steel plate from being scratched when pressed into the fuel tank mold. If excessive oil was applied to the mold, it caused an undulating surface in the tank, which increases material rigidity. Engine vibration or riding on bumpy roads can create a fatigue crack in the fuel tank. Normal fuel tank flexibility can absorb these vibrations. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source could result in a fire. No fuel tank leaks have occurred in the U.S. market.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Jan. 12, 2004	HMC received the first report from Italy, which reported fuel leakage after parking. HMC initiated an investigation.
Mar. 8, 2004	HMC received a second report from Germany, which reported fuel leakage after refueling and starting the engine.
Mar. 25, 2004	HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The dealer will perform an inspection procedure that identifies defective fuel tanks using compressed air. If the tank fails the inspection procedure, the dealer will replace it with a new fuel tank. The inspection and any necessary repairs will be performed free of charge for all affected vehicles. Reimbursement will not be necessary because the affected vehicles are still covered under the new vehicle warranty.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Apr. 21, 2004

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers: Mar. 26, 2004

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Apr. 21, 2004

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.8(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.8(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

P28.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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