

November 19, 2004

04V-549
(3 pages)

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

RECEIVED
NOV 23 A 9 25
DEPT'S INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On November 12, 2004, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

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 ST1300	All 2003 model year	JH2SC511*3M100001 – JH2SC511*3M101443 Jan. 16, 2002 to Oct. 31, 2002
Honda ST1300A	All 2003 model year	JH2SC514*3M100001 – JH2SC514*3M100798 Jan. 15, 2002 to Aug. 1, 2003

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

The 2003 ST1300 was the introductory year of a new model. The 2004 ST1300 has a different wiring configuration.

573.6(c)(3)
Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 2,185

573.6(c)(4)
Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)
Defect description:
The routing of some wire harnesses may allow a connector to contact and chafe against the fuel tank. Eventually, the chafing may cause a short circuit and blow an ignition system fuse. The engine will then stall without warning, which could cause a crash.

573.6(c)(6)
Chronology:

Oct. 18, 2004	AHM submitted a report of a short circuit to HMC, and HMC initiated an investigation.
Nov. 12, 2004	HMC completed the investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.6(c)(8)(i)
Program for remedying the defect:
The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect the wire harness connector position and check for damage. If any damage is found, the dealer will replace the necessary parts. If no damage is found, the dealer will reposition the connector, if necessary, and make sure adequate clearance exists. This inspection and any necessary repairs will be performed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Nov. 17, 2004
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Dec. 2, 2004
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Dec. 2, 2004
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Dec. 2, 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.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

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

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

P53.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Willen by Z. Arneson Esq". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Wallace, Patricia

From: Wallace, Patricia
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2004 11:38 AM
To: 'Katy_Endicott@ahm.honda.com'
Subject: RE: Part 577 draft for 04V-549

This looks fine. You're right - we would prefer crash over collision. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Katy_Endicott@ahm.honda.com [mailto:Katy_Endicott@ahm.honda.com]
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2004 7:04 PM
To: Person, George
Cc: Wallace, Patricia ; William_Willen@ahm.honda.com
Subject: Part 577 draft for 04V-549

Please review and comment on the attached Part 577 notification for ST1300 wire harness.
(See attached file: ST1300 short circuit 577 WORKING.doc)

Here is an alternate paragraph for "What is the reason for this notice?"
that our publications group proposed. Besides changing collision risk to crash, do you
have any comments about this version?

An area of the wire harness is susceptible to chafing, which can cause the insulation to
wear away. In the worst case, the ignition wire will be exposed and short circuit. If
this occurs, the motorcycle's engine will shut off, which could increase the risk of a
collision.

Wallace, Patricia

From: Katy_Endicott@ahm.honda.com
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2004 7:04 PM
To: Person, George
Cc: Wallace, Patricia ; William_Willen@ahm.honda.com
Subject: Part 577 draft for 04V-549



ST1300 short circuit
577 WORKI...

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December 2004

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear ST1300 Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

What is the reason for this notice?

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in 2003 model year ST1300/A motorcycles. The routing of some wire harnesses may allow a connector to contact and chafe against the fuel tank. Eventually, the chafing may cause a short circuit and blow an ignition system fuse. The engine will then stall without warning, which could cause a crash.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda motorcycle dealer and make an appointment to have your ST1300 inspected. The dealer will inspect the wire harness connector's position and check for damage. If any damage is found, the dealer will make the necessary repair. If no damage is found, the dealer will reposition the connector, if necessary, and make sure adequate clearance exists. The inspection and any necessary repairs work will be performed *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your motorcycle for the day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

Who to contact if you experience problems.

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Motorcycle Customer Support
Mail Stop 100-4W-5B
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your motorcycle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner of a 2003 ST1300/A involved in this recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

If you paid to have the wire harness repaired sometime in the past, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Refer to the attached Request for Reimbursement for eligibility requirements and the reimbursement procedure.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with locating a Honda dealer, please call Motorcycle Customer Support at (866) 784-1870. You may also visit our Web site at www.hondamotorcycle.com and click on "find a dealer" to locate a Honda dealer who can assist you.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Motorcycle Division