

HONDA

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

November 30, 2004

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

04V-564
(4 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On November 22, 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 of American Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)

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 VTX1800C	Certain 2002 model year	1HFSC46**2A000001 – 1HFSC46**2A010902
Honda VTX1800R	Certain 2002 model year	1HFSC49**2A100001 – 1HFSC49**2A000990

Feb. 10, 2001 to Oct. 31, 2001

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

The 2002 VTX1800 was the introductory year of a new model. The VIN range reflects all vehicles that have an original washer. Vehicles manufactured after the affected range received an improved washer that will not deform if a gap exists.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 12,866

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:

Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

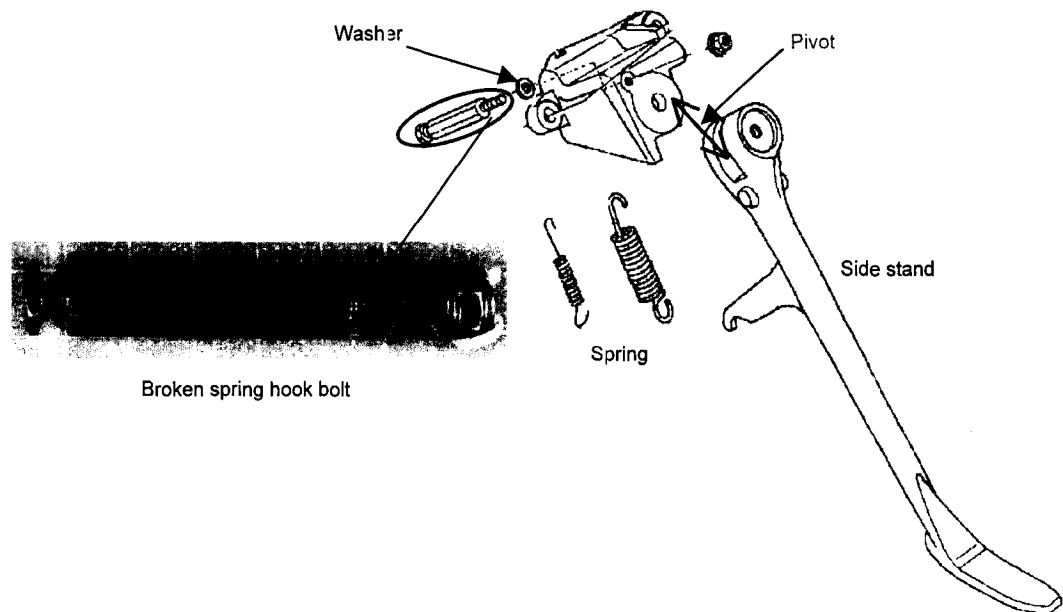
Defect description:

Summary

The washer for the side stand spring bolt does not have sufficient hardness and may deform, which could cause the bolt to flex and eventually break during side stand operation. In limited circumstances, a retracted side stand could drop while riding, possibly activating the side stand ignition cut-off system. If the ignition is cut, the engine will stall without warning, which could cause a crash.

Detail

The side stand is held in the down or the retracted position with a spring and spring hook bolt. The washer installed on the spring hook bolt does not have sufficient hardness and may deform, which could lead to flexing of the bolt. Stresses from side stand operation could eventually cause the bolt to break during side stand operation and, generally, the side stand will no longer remain in a retracted position, which is obvious to the operator. However, if the side stand pivot is corroded, the corrosion may prevent the side stand from falling back down after being retracted. In this case, riding on rough roads could cause a retracted side stand to drop while riding. These motorcycle side stands are equipped with an ignition cut-off system. If the side stand drops while riding, there is a possibility the engine could stall without warning and cause a crash.



573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Oct. 17, 2002	AHM issued a QIC report regarding broken spring hook bolts during side stand operation.
Dec. 2, 2002	HMC confirmed that breakage occurred during side stand operation, not while riding. HMC closed the investigation.
Sept. 16, 2004	AHM received NHTSA's preliminary investigation letter, which included complaints of side stands dropped while riding. HMC reopened the investigation. Prior to this date, HMC had not received a report of bolt breakage occurring while riding.
Nov. 22, 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 install an improved washer and a new spring bolt and nut, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:	Nov. 30, 2004
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Dec. 13, 2004
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Dec. 13, 2004
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Dec. 13, 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:

P58.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen".

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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