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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

December 6, 2004

04V-568

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On November 29, 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
Honda ST1300	All 2004 model year	JH2SC510*4M200001 – JH2SC510*4M201352 Jan. 9, 2004 to Apr. 27, 2004
Honda ST1300A	All 2004 model year	JH2SC514*4M200001 – JH2SC514*4M200798 Jan. 9, 2004 to Apr. 28, 2004

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

The 2003 ST1300 was the introductory year of a new model. When production of the 2005 ST1300 begins, the countermeasure main wire harness will be applied.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 4,345

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The main wire harness distributes the grounding load through two independent circuits. All electrical circuit grounds are routed to a single point, and a distribution connector cap apportions the load to two independent ground circuits. The connector was improperly wired, and one ground circuit is apportioned an excessive load. If the connector overheats, power to various circuits could be lost. As a result, a loss of critical lighting or engine power could occur without warning, which could cause a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Oct. 18, 2004	HMC received a report from Germany that a main wire harness connector was melted and initiated an investigation.
Nov. 29, 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 ground distribution connector and check for damage. If any damage is found, the dealer will install an improved main harness. If no damage is found, the dealer will install a reconfigured connector cap that will apportion the ground load correctly. The 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: Dec. 6, 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:

To be determined.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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