

January 18, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Medford:

On January 11, 2005, 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)
Honda of America Mfg., 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 GL1800/A	All 2002 model year	1HFSC470*2A111443 – 1HFSC470*2A113582 1HFSC474*2A102394 – 1HFSC474*2A102823 Feb. 25, 2002 to Apr. 16, 2002
GL1800/A	All 2003 model year	1HFSC470*3A200001 – 1HFSC470*3A212217 1HFSC474*3A200001 – 1HFSC474*3A203256 Apr. 16, 2002 to Jun. 24, 2003
GL1800/A	All 2004 model year	1HFSC470*4A300001 – 1HFSC470*4A306927 1HFSC474*4A300001 – 1HFSC474*4A301749 Jun. 24, 2003 to Aug. 4, 2004
CBR1100XX	All 2002 model year	JH2SC351*2M500193 – JH2SC351*2M500224 Jan. 30, 2002 to Feb. 5, 2002
	All 2003 model year	JH2SC350*3M600001 – JH2SC350*3M600896 JH2SC351*3M600001 – JH2SC351*3M600096 Oct. 16, 2002 to Feb. 22, 2003

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda VFR800	All 2002 model year	JH2RC461*2M401716 – JH2RC461*2M402149 Jan. 29, 2002 to May 13, 2002
VFR800/A	All 2003 model year	JH2RC461*3M500001 – JH2RC461*3M501519 JH2RC464*3M500001 – JH2RC464*3M500496 Jul. 16, 2002 to Nov. 25, 2002
VFR800/A	All 2004 model year	JH2RC461*4M600001 – JH2RC461*4M601209 JH2RC464*4M600001 – JH2RC464*4M600310 Oct. 15, 2003 to Feb. 13, 2004
ST1300/A	All 2003 model year	JH2SC511*3M100002 – JH2SC511*3M101443 JH2SC514*3M100002 – JH2SC514*3M100798 Mar. 15, 2002 to Sept. 19, 2003
ST1300/A	All 2004 model year	JH2SC510*4M200001 – JH2SC510*4M201352 JH2SC513*4M200001 – JH2SC513*4M200808 Jan. 12, 2004 to Jun. 10, 2004

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

The affected vehicles were determined based on manufacturing records.

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 36,046

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

A proportioning valve in motorcycles equipped with combined-brake systems could develop a leak. Over time, the leak could result in a total loss of fluid in the rear brake system. If the motorcycle continues to be used after a leak occurs, the rear brake would eventually become inoperative. In the worst case, a loss of rear brake force may cause a crash.

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

Detail

Motorcycles equipped with combined-brake systems have a proportioning control valve (PCV) that mechanically proportions brake force when the rear brake is applied. A seal in some PCVs is improperly shaped, and brake fluid leakage may occur. If the motorcycle continues to be used after a leak occurs, the rear brake would eventually become inoperative. These motorcycles have two independent hydraulic brake systems. Although the front brake provides most of the braking function, a loss of rear brake force could increase the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

Oct. 7, 2004	AHM issued a report of a dealer contact about a proportioning valve leak on a VFR800.
Oct. 8, 2004	HMC initiated an investigation.
Jan. 11, 2005	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 rear brake for leakage. If leakage is confirmed, the dealer will replace the PCV. 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:	Jan. 14, 2005
The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:	Jan. 28, 2005
The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:	Feb. 3, 2005
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	Feb. 3, 2005

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.

Mr. Ronald Medford
January 18, 2005
Page 4

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:

P65.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke