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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.



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

August 14, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

07V-359  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

On August 7, 2007, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the wire harness of 2002-2005 model year VFR800 motorcycles, 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 Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda VFR800	All 2002-05 model year	Will be submitted

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

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** TBD

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** 100%

**Defect description:**

The front fairing sub-harness (section of the wiring harness) transfers the electrical grounding load of the headlights, front turn signals, instrument panel, and various relays to the main wiring harness via an 18-pin connector. Under certain conditions, the ground wire terminals inside the connector can overheat, resulting in melting of the connector and a loss of power to various circuits. 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:**

July 29, 2005	AHM issued a report to HMC and initiated an investigation.
Aug. 29, 2005	HMC determined the cause was the result of owner modification
Sep. 16, 2005	AHM received an inquiry from NHTSA's Office of Defect Investigation.
Nov. 14, 2005	AHM issued a reply with the requested data along with information from 5 vehicle inspections which exhibited owner modifications.
Jan. 26, 2007	AHM received an inquiry from NHTSA's Early Warning Division.
Mar. 9, 2007	AHM issued a reply providing the requested information.
Aug. 7, 2007	HMC decided to conduct a safety recall to improve the ground capacity and its ability to withstand minor electrical modifications.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

The owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda motorcycle dealer. A re-designed sub-harness will be installed, and if damage is found the main wiring harness will also be replaced, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

<b>Date of e-mail notification to dealers:</b>	TBD
<b>The estimated date to begin sending initial notification to owners:</b>	TBD
<b>The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:</b>	TBD
<b>The estimated date to begin sending customer letters to owners:</b>	TBD
<b>The estimated date of completion of the notification:</b>	TBD

**The estimated date to begin sending customer letters to owners:** TBD

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** TBD

573.6(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter 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:**  
TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis