

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

September 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

On September 4, 2009, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the swingarm weld of certain 2002 model year VTX1800 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

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2009 SEP 17 A 10:23
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda VTX1800	Certain 2002 model year	1HFSC46072A007853 - 1HFSC46052A008256 Aug. 14, 2001 – Aug. 22, 2001 1HFSC46032A010183 - 1HFSC46002A010447 Oct. 2, 2001 – Oct. 4, 2001

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

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

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 688

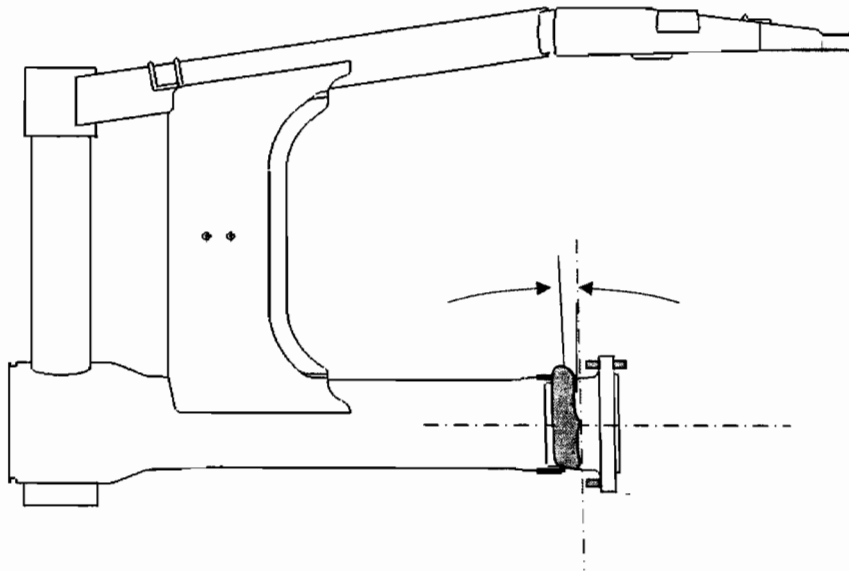
573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

The weld bead at the final drive mounting flange (part of swingarm) may not have been properly positioned around the entire circumference, resulting in areas with insufficient weld penetration. Insufficient weld penetration can result in weld cracking and breakage. If the weld breaks while riding, the rider's ability to control the motorcycle will be adversely affected. There may also be a loss of forward drive if the propeller shaft disengages from the final drive. Either scenario could potentially lead to a crash.



573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

September 2004	HAM concluded its first investigation of swingarm weld cracking and made the determination that no safety-related defect existed.
February 2009	HAM re-opened its investigation into swingarm weld cracking after receiving additional occurrences and a safety-related complaint.
September 4, 2009	HMC 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 contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect the swing arm flange weld and, if necessary, replace the swing arm. The inspection and repair will be performed free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers: Sept. 4, 2009

The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: Sept. 18, 2009

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Sept. 25, 2009

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Sept. 25, 2009

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.

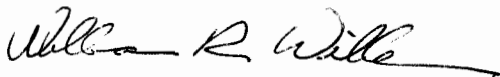
573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

TBD

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:nis