

HONDA

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

April 8, 2021

Mr. Jeffrey Giuseppe
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Part 573, Defect Information Report
2021 Model Year Honda CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP
Rear Cushion Connecting Plate

Dear Mr. Giuseppe:

In accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance and Responsibility Reports, Honda is submitting the enclosed Defect Information Report regarding a safety recall of certain 2021 model year Honda CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP to address a defect with the rear cushion connecting plate.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jeff Chang
Senior Manager
Product Regulatory Office

JC:wvt

Defect Information Report

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Motor Co., Ltd., Kumamoto Factory

Manufacturer's agent: Jeff Chang
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles</u>
Honda CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP	2021	04/28/2020 – 07/29/2020	89

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

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

Description of how the vehicles being recalled differ from similar vehicles not included in the recall:

All vehicles produced within the dates of manufacture ranges specified above may be affected. As a process improvement, the rear cushion connecting plate assembly now includes visual references for correct and incorrect installation. In addition, a visual inspection with check marks have been implemented to the assembly inspection process.

Identification of affected component:

Component: Plate, Cushion Connecting
Part No.: 52471-MKR-D10

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 89

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 1%

The percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect is unknown as it is not possible to estimate the potential for mis-assembly based on manufacturing records. Although the listed estimated percentage does not accurately reflect currently known information, a 1% defect rate is being used to comply with previous NHTSA requests.

573.6(c)(5)

Defect description:

During the assembly process, the rear cushion connecting plate may have been installed incorrectly with the counterbore side facing the wrong direction (reverse), improperly securing the plate to the chassis of the vehicle. With continued use of a vehicle in which the rear cushion connecting plate was incorrectly installed, the plate may break suddenly, causing a drop to the vehicle height, and increasing the risk of a crash or injury.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

June 26, 2020

The first occurrence of the issue took place on a vehicle in France. The vehicle was repaired under warranty due to complaints of an abnormal noise coming from the rear suspension.

July 14, 2020

Through a quality inspection process at Honda's Kumamoto factory, an abnormal noise was heard. Several vehicles were found to have had the rear cushion connecting plate incorrectly installed and were corrected.

August 28, 2020

Honda received the initial report of this issue for the Japanese market, which arose from a complaint of an abnormal noise from the rear suspension.

September – October 2020

After receiving additional market claims, Honda initiates an investigation into the issue of abnormal noise coming from the rear suspension by conducting an analysis into parts which were collected.

February 22, 2021

Honda received the second report on the issue for the Japanese market, which indicated a sudden drop of vehicle height was experienced. The rear cushion connecting plate was found to be broken.

February – March 2021

Honda further investigated the issue of abnormal noise with warranty repairs globally and found that for production prior to July 2020, the rear cushion connecting plate(s) were incorrectly assembled with the outside facing in (reverse).

April 1, 2021

Honda determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety existed and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of March 29, 2021, Honda has not received any warranty claims, field reports, nor reports of crashes or injuries related to this issue for the US market.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

Registered owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to bring their vehicle to an authorized Honda motorcycle dealer. The dealer will visually inspect the left and right rear cushion connecting plates and, if improperly installed, replace with new connecting plates and hardware.

Owners who have paid to have these repairs completed at their own expense will be eligible for reimbursement, in accord with the recall reimbursement plan on file with NHTSA.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The notification date to dealers:

April 5, 2021

The estimated date to start notifications to owners:

June 7, 2021

573.6(c)(10)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final customer notification letter and other dealer communication will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

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: KL9