

# HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748  
Phone (310) 783-2000

RECEIVED  
NVS-215

2003 SEP 26 A 9 20

September 16, 2003

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

03V-350 ① of ③

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On September 9, 2003, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the frame of the motorcycles listed below. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5.

573.5(c)(1)

**Name of Manufacturer:** Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)  
**Manufacturer's Agent:** William R. Willen  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2748

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda GL1800	Certain 2002-2003 model year	1HFSC470*2A111803 – 1HFSC470*2A113582 1HFSC470*3A200001 – 1HFSC470*3A204880 Mar. 1, 2002 to Sept. 10, 2002
Honda GL1800A	Certain 2002-2003 model year	1HFSC474*2A102394 – 1HFSC474*2A102823 1HFSC474*3A200001 – 1HFSC474*3A201126 Mar. 1, 2002 to Sept. 10, 2002

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

Based on manufacturing records, potentially improper welds are limited to a seven-month period in 2002. Process changes applied to the production line corrected the welding for vehicles manufactured after the affected range.

573.5(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 8,196

573.5(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Unknown

573.5(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

Certain frame welds do not meet manufacturing specifications. High loads created when riding on rough road surfaces or through potholes can cause the affected welds to crack. In the worst case, the welded area could break, resulting in rear suspension collapse or lower cross member separation. No rear-wheel lockup, crashes or injuries have been reported.

573.5(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Jul. 8, 2002	AHM received a dealer report of a broken GL1800 frame.
Aug. 8, 2002	AHM's customer relations department received a second broken frame report.
Aug. 27, 2002	HAM completed a material analysis of the first broken frame, which was caused by a large impact.
Sep. 10, 2002	A welding process change was applied to production. AHM and HAM continued to watch the market.
Jan. 21, 2003	AHM received the first report of cracked frame welds.
Mar. 31, 2003	AHM received a dealer report of a third broken frame.
May 11, 2003	AHM asked HMC to expedite the investigation.
Jul. 22, 2003	AHM requested a meeting with NHTSA.
Sep. 4, 2003	Honda meeting with NHTSA.
Sep. 9, 2003	HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.5(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

Dealers will inspect and repair all frames within the affected range. The repair will consist of reinforcing welds, which will be done free of charge.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** Oct. 6, 2003

**The date that dealers were notified:** Sep. 11, 2003

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** Oct. 6, 2003

573.5(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.

573.5(c)(10)

**Proposed owner notification letter submission:**

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

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