

HONDA

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

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NYS-215

December 15, 2003

2003 DEC 10 P 2:05

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-513 ① of ③

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On November 27, 2003, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a safety-related problem exists in the handlebar clamping components of 2002-2003 model year Honda FSC600 scooters. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5.

573.5(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 90501-2748

573.5(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda FSC600	All 2002 model year	JH2PF011*2K000009 to JH2PF011*2K002509 Nov. 18, 2001 to Jan. 7, 2002
	All 2003 model year	JH2PF014*3K000004 to JH2PF014*3K000367 Jan. 20, 2003 to Feb. 3, 2003
		JH2PF011*3K100002 to JH2PF011*3K102133 Dec. 26, 2002 to Feb. 7, 2003

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

The 2002 model year was the introductory year of the FSC600 in the United States. The handlebar holder of vehicles manufactured after the affected range has been changed to compensate for tolerance build-up (stacking).

573.5(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 4,997

573.5(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.5(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

Excessive clearance between the lower handlebar clamp and handlebar holder creates stress that can eventually cause the handlebar to loosen or detach, resulting in a loss of steering control.

Detail

The manufacturing tolerances (the \pm variation of individual components) of the lower handlebar clamp and handlebar holder create excessive clearance between these parts. During operation, forces applied to the handlebar can stress the threaded attaching studs beyond their material limits. If a stud fails, the handlebar will be loose. If the vehicle is ridden in this condition, the remaining stud could fail, and the rider would lose steering control, which could lead to a crash.

573.5(c)(6)

Chronology:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Jul. 2, 2003 | HMC received the first notice from a dealer in Japan who reported a clicking noise while turning handlebar. HMC initiated an investigation. |
| Nov. 6, 2003 | HMC received a second notice from a dealer in Japan who reported that a customer returned a scooter with a loose handlebar. The handlebar detached when the scooter was pushed into the dealership. HMC accelerated the investigation. |
| Nov. 18, 2003 | HMC completed the investigation. |
| Nov. 27, 2003 | HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists. |

573.5(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their scooter to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will install new lower handlebar clamps, add washers between the lower handlebar clamps and handlebar holder to eliminate the clearance, and install new locknuts.

573.5(c)(8)(II)

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Jan. 8, 2004

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers: Dec. 6, 2003

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Jan. 8, 2004

573.5(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.

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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Enclosure