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By Recall Management Division at 9:59 am, Sep 19, 2012

**HONDA**

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

September 18, 2012

12V-461  
4 Pages

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

**Re: Recall Notification  
2012 Model Year Honda NC700 motorcycle  
Drive chain**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On September 11, 2012, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the drive chain of certain 2012 model year Honda NC700 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. Kumamoto Factory (HMC)

**Manufacturer's agent:** Jay Joseph  
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 NC700XDC	Certain 2012 model year	JH2RC6310CK( ) – JH2RC6310CK May 25, 2012 to July 12, 2012
Honda NC700XC	Certain 2012 model year	JH2RC6351CK( ) – JH2RC6359CK May 22, 2012 to July 4, 2012

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

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

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

**Identification of affected component:**

Component: Drive chain  
Country of Origin: Japan  
Manufacturer: RK Japan Co., Ltd. (RK)  
Contact Name: Yasunori Harashima, Director  
Address: 668 Kabutoyama, Kumagaya, Saitama, Japan  
Telephone No.: +81-493-39-2222

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected vehicles:** 1,542

573.6(c)(4)

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

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

Some motorcycles within the affected range may be equipped with drive chains that contain outer drive plates that were improperly heat-treated, which may cause the plates to exceed the specified hardness limits and can result in plate fracture during use. If a plate fractures, the motorcycle can unexpectedly lose driving force, increasing the risk of a crash.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

March 27, 2012	A claim for a broken drive chain that occurred on a motorcycle registered in Belgium was received.
April 24, 2012	The drive chain from the first claim was provided to HMC. HMC identified the drive chain as an RK drive chain.  A second claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in Germany) was received.
May 17, 2012	HMC requested RK to analyze the drive chain from first claim.
May 23, 2012	A third claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in Spain) was received.
May 28, 2012	RK advised that the first broken drive chain resulted from a delayed-fracture of an outer plate.
May 29, 2012	The drive chains from the second and third claims were provided to HMC.
June 1, 2012	A fourth claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in France) was reported.

June 4, 2012	A fifth claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in the United Kingdom) was reported.
June 5, 2012	The drive chain from the fourth claim was provided to HMC.
June 6, 2012	RK advised that the outer plates of the second and third claim drive chains also experienced delayed-fractures.
June 18, 2012	A sixth claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in the United Kingdom) was reported.
June 19, 2012	RK found that the fractured plates on drive chains from claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 exceeded the applicable hardness specification.
July 5, 2012	HMC visited RK and a review of RK's heat treatment process and testing of the plates was initiated.
July 7, 2012	The drive chain from the sixth claim was provided to HMC.
July 10, 2012	A seventh claim for a broken drive chain (this one located in the United Kingdom) was reported.
July 19, 2012	RK reported to HMC that they found large variations in the plate hardness after the heat treatment process.
August 2012	RK and HMC analyzed results for plates subjected to acid cracking, fatigue, and breaking strength tests and investigated possible environmental and usage factors that may have contributed to the delayed-fractures. HMC further analyzed the potential for future delayed-fracture occurrences, the model types potentially equipped with affected drive chains, and the countries that received these motorcycles for retail sale.
Sept. 11, 2012	HMC completed its investigation and determined that a safety-related defect exists and decided to conduct a safety recall.

To date, American Honda has not received any complaints of a broken drive chain on NC700 motorcycles in the United States. In Europe, a total of nine reports for a broken drive chain have been received. These complaints and the potential for similar complaints in other markets were considered in the market action decision.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

The owners of all vehicles within the affected range will be contacted by mail and asked to take their motorcycle to an authorized Honda motorcycle dealer. The dealer will inspect the motorcycle drive chain and, if necessary, replace it, free of charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to e-mail preliminary notification to dealers:** Sept. 18, 2012

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers:** Sept. 18, 2012

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** Oct. 8, 2012

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** Oct. 12, 2012

573.6(c)(9)

**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.

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:**

S54

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



Jay Joseph  
Senior Manager  
Product Regulatory Office

JWJ:dj