

Honda's original and renewed request concerned exemption "from the requirement of the minimum hand-lever force of five pounds in the base line check for the fade and water recovery tests." It is evaluating the marketability of an "improved" motorcycle brake system setting which is currently applied to the model sold in Europe. The difference in setting is limited to a softer master cylinder return spring in the European version. Using the softer spring results in a "more predictable (linear) feeling during initial brake lever application." Although "the change allows a more predictable rise in brake gain, the on-set of braking occurs at lever forces slightly below the five pound minimum" specified in Standard No. 122. Honda considers that motorcycle brake systems have continued to evolve and improve since Standard No. 122 was adopted in 1972, and that one area of improvement is brake lever force which has gradually been reduced. However, the five-pound minimum specification "is preventing further development and improvement" of brake system characteristics. This limit, when applied to the CBR1100XX "results in an imprecise feeling when the rider applies low-level front brake lever inputs." On November 5, 1997, Honda submitted a petition for rulemaking to amend Standard No. 122 to eliminate the minimum brake actuation force requirement. As of June 19, 1998, when Honda applied for a renewal of its application, NHTSA had not yet decided whether to grant the petition. The agency notes that it anticipates granting the petition and commencing a rulemaking proceeding this fall.

The 1999 model of the CBR1100XX "will be nearly identical" to the 1998 model "with two notable exceptions: the engine air/fuel delivery system will change from carburetors to electronic fuel injection, and the brake system will also have a minor change." This brake system change involves characteristics of the pressure control valve, but is "limited to high input force range, and it will not affect the baseline check result nor other test results in FMVSS 122."

The CBR1100XX is equipped with Honda's Linked Brake System (LBS) which is designed to engage both front and rear brakes when either the front brake lever or the rear brake pedal is used. The LBS differs from other integrated systems in that it allows the rider to choose which wheel gets the majority of braking force, depending on which brake control the rider uses.

According to Honda, the overall braking performance remains

unchanged from a conforming motorcycle. Exempted CBR1100XX vehicles meet "the stopping distance requirement but at lever forces slightly below the minimum."

Honda argued in 1997 that granting an exemption would be in the public interest and consistent with objectives of traffic safety because it

* * * should improve a rider's ability to precisely modulate the brake force at low-level brake lever input forces. Improving the predictability, even at very low-level brake lever input, increases the rider's confidence in the motorcycle's brake system.

This year Honda repeats those arguments and submits that a renewal allows further refinement and development of the LBS. It believes that the LBS has "many desirable characteristics—especially during emergency braking—that could reduce the number of rear brake lock-up crashes." Honda has produced about 1200 motorcycles under Exemption 97-1, and anticipates that it will produce about 1,500 vehicles under a renewal.

No comments were received on the application.

The changes that Honda intends to make to the braking system of its 1999 model do not affect the reasoning upon which the agency's findings were based in granting the original exemption for its 1998 motorcycle, and the agency's rationale is hereby incorporated by reference (62 FR 52372, October 7, 1997). A renewal should allow further refinement and development of the LBS.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby found that an exemption would make easier the development or field evaluation of a new motor vehicle safety feature providing a safety level at least equal to the safety level of Standard No. 122. It is also hereby found that the renewal of the temporary exemption is in the public interest and consistent with the objectives of motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, NHTSA Temporary Exemption No. 97-1 is extended to, and will expire on, September 1, 1999.

(49 U.S.C. 30113; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.)

Issued on November 18, 1998.

Ricardo Martinez,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Annual List of Defect and Noncompliance Decisions Affecting Nonconforming Imported Vehicles

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Annual list of defect and noncompliance decisions affecting nonconforming imported vehicles.

SUMMARY: This document contains a list of vehicles recalled by their manufacturers during Fiscal Year 1998 (October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998) to correct a safety-related defect or a noncompliance with an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard (FMVSS). The listed vehicles are those that have been decided by NHTSA to be substantially similar to vehicles imported into the United States that were not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable FMVSS. The registered importers of those nonconforming vehicles are obligated to provide their owners with notification of, and a remedy for, the defects or noncompliances for which the listed vehicles were recalled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS) shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle of the same model year that was originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115. Once NHTSA decides that a nonconforming vehicle is eligible for importation, it may be imported by a person who is registered with the agency pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30141(c) ("registered importer"), who will undertake to bring the vehicle into conformity, or by a person who has a contract with a registered importer to perform this work. Before releasing the vehicle for use on public streets, roads, or highways, the registered importer must certify to NHTSA, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30146(a), that the vehicle has been brought into conformity with all applicable FMVSS.

If a vehicle originally manufactured and certified for importation into and sale in the United States is decided to

contain a defect related to motor vehicle safety, or not to comply with an applicable FMVSS, 49 U.S.C. 30147(a)(1)(A) provides that the same defect or noncompliance is deemed to exist in any nonconforming vehicle that NHTSA has decided to be substantially similar and for which a registered importer has submitted a certificate of conformity to the agency. Under 49 U.S.C. 30147(a)(1)(B), the registered importer is deemed to be the nonconforming vehicle's manufacturer for the purpose of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the defect or noncompliance.

To apprise registered importers of the vehicles for which they must conduct a notification and remedy (i.e., "recall") campaign, and to apprise the owners of those vehicles of the need for such action, 49 U.S.C. 30147(a)(2) requires NHTSA to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of any defect or noncompliance decision that is made with respect to substantially similar U.S. certified vehicles. Annex A contains a list of all such decisions that were made during Fiscal Year 1998, which ran from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998. The list identifies the Recall Number that was assigned to

the recall by NHTSA after the agency received the manufacturer's notification of the defect or noncompliance under 49 CFR Part 573. After September 30, 1999, NHTSA will publish a comparable list of all defect and noncompliance decisions affecting nonconforming imported vehicles that are made during the current fiscal year.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30147(a)(2); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: November 20, 1998.

Marilynne Jacobs,
Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

ANNEX A—FISCAL YEAR 98 RECALLS AFFECTING VEHICLES IMPORTED BY REGISTERED IMPORTERS

Make	Model	Year	Recall No.
AUDI	A4	1996	97V175000.
BENTLEY	AZURE	1996	97V182000.
BLUE BIRD	TC2000	1990	97V197000.
BLUE BIRD	TC2000	1990	97V197002.
BMW	325i	1992	98V178000.
BMW	325iS	1994	98V178000.
BMW	525i	1989	98V178000.
BMW	525i	1990	98V178000.
BMW	525i	1991	98V178000.
BMW	525i	1994	98V178000.
BMW	540i	1994	98V178000.
BMW	540i	1995	98V178000.
BMW	850i	1991	98V178000.
BUICK	CENTURY	1998	98V102000.
BUICK	REGAL	1997	97V223000.
BUICK	REGAL	1997	98V102000.
BUICK	REGAL	1998	98V102000.
BUICK	ROADMASTER	1992	97V217000.
CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1995	98V115000.
CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1998	97V232000.
CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1998	97V183000.
CADILLAC	ELDORADO	1995	98V115000.
CADILLAC	SEVILLE	1995	98V115000.
CHEVROLET	CAPRICE	1992	97V217000.
CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1996	98V027000.
CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1996	98V146000.
CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1997	98V032000.
CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1997	98V146000.
CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1998	97V219000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1995	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1995	98V063000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1995	98V183000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1996	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1996	98V183000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1997	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	CIRRUS	1997	98V183000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1993	98V130000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1993	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1994	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1995	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1996	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	CONCORDE	1997	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	LHS	1994	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	LHS	1995	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	LHS	1996	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	LHS	1997	98V184000.
CHRYSLER	SEBRING	1995	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	SEBRING	1996	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	SEBRING	1996	98V183000.
CHRYSLER	SEBRING	1997	97V201000.
CHRYSLER	SEBRING	1997	98V183000.
DODGE	INTREPID	1995	98V184000.
DODGE	INTREPID	1996	98V184000.
DODGE	INTREPID	1997	98V184000.

ANNEX A—FISCAL YEAR 98 RECALLS AFFECTING VEHICLES IMPORTED BY REGISTERED IMPORTERS—Continued

Make	Model	Year	Recall No.
DODGE	INTREPID	1998	98V049000.
DODGE	NEON	1995	97V169000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1995	97V201000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1995	98V183000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1996	97V201000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1996	98V183000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1997	97V201000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1997	98V183000.
DODGE	STRATUS	1998	98V183000.
EAGLE	TALON	1994	98V069000.
EAGLE	TALON	1994	98V069002.
EAGLE	VISION	1993	98V130000.
EAGLE	VISION	1993	98V184000.
EAGLE	VISION	1994	98V184000.
EAGLE	VISION	1995	98V184000.
EAGLE	VISION	1996	98V184000.
EAGLE	VISION	1997	98V184000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1995	97V225000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1995	98V233000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1996	97V233000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1996	97V225000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1996	98V233000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1997	97V203000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1997	98V233000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1998	98V028000.
FORD	CONTOUR	1998	98V028001.
FORD	CONTOUR	1998	98V233000.
FORD	MUSTANG	1994	97V180000.
FORD	MUSTANG	1995	97V180000.
FORD	MUSTANG	1996	97V180000.
FORD	MUSTANG	1998	97V216000.
FORD	TAURUS	1993	98V009000.
FORD	TAURUS	1993	98V094000.
FORD	TAURUS	1994	98V009000.
FORD	TAURUS	1997	98V028002.
FORD	TAURUS	1998	98V028002.
FREIGHTLINER	FREIGHTLINER	1997	98V003000.
GMC	JIMMY	1998	98V053000.
GMC	JIMMY	1998	98V097000.
GMC	S15	1995	98V150000.
GMC	S15	1996	98V150000.
GMC	SAFARI	1998	98V165000.
GMC	SONOMA	1998	98V097000.
GMC	SUBURBAN	1998	98V033000.
GMC	YUKON	1998	98V033000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHT	1998	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTC	1995	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTC	1996	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTC	1997	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTC	1998	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCI	1996	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCI	1997	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCI	1998	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCU	1996	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCU	1997	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCU	1998	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCUI	1997	98V158000.
HARLEY DAVIDSON	FLHTCUI	1998	98V158000.
HONDA	ACCORD	1995	98V231000.
HONDA	ACCORD	1996	98V231000.
HONDA	ACCORD	1997	98V231000.
HONDA	ACCORD	1998	98V018000.
HONDA	CIVIC	1998	97V193000.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1990	98V005000.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1991	98V005000.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1997	97V194000.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1997	97V194001.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1998	98V023000.
JEEP	CHEROKEE	1997	97V194002.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1993	98V005000.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1996	98V006000.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1997	98V194000.

ANNEX A—FISCAL YEAR 98 RECALLS AFFECTING VEHICLES IMPORTED BY REGISTERED IMPORTERS—Continued

Make	Model	Year	Recall No.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1997	97V194001.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1997	97V194002.
JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE	1998	98V023000.
JEEP	WRANGLER	1990	98V005000.
JEEP	WRANGLER	1991	98V005000.
JEEP	WRANGLER	1997	97V194003.
JEEP	WRANGLER	1997	98V046000.
KENWORTH	T2000	1996	98V129000.
KENWORTH	T2000	1997	98V129000.
KENWORTH	T800	1996	97V196003.
KENWORTH	T800	1997	97V196003.
KENWORTH	W900	1997	97V196003.
LEXUS	LS400	1996	98V016000.
LINCOLN	CONTINENTAL	1990	97I003000.
LINCOLN	CONTINENTAL	1990	97V174000.
LINCOLN	CONTINENTAL	1994	98V009000.
LINCOLN	MARK VIII	1993	98V009000.
MAZDA	626	1997	98V206000.
MAZDA	626	1998	97V228000.
MAZDA	MX6	1997	98V206000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1995	97V225000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1995	98V233000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1996	97V225000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1996	98V233000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1997	98V233000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1998	98V028000.
MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	1998	98V233000.
MERCURY	SABLE	1989	97I003000.
MERCURY	SABLE	1993	98V009000.
MERCURY	SABLE	1993	98V094000.
MERCURY	SABLE	1994	98V009000.
MERCURY	SABLE	1997	98V028002.
MERCURY	SABLE	1998	98V028002.
NAVISTAR	4700	1995	98V119002.
NAVISTAR	4900	1993	98V171000.
OLDSMOBILE	ACHIEVA	1996	98V027000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1995	97V201000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1996	97V201000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1996	98V183000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1997	97V201000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1997	98V183000.
PLYMOUTH	BREEZE	1998	98V183000.
PLYMOUTH	NEON	1995	97V169000.
PLYMOUTH	PROWLER	1997	98V047000.
PLYMOUTH	PROWLER	1999	98V104000.
PONTIAC	GRAND AM	1996	98V027000.
PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1996	98V027000.
PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1996	98V146000.
PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1997	98V032000.
PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1997	98V146000.
PONTIAC	SUNFIRE	1998	97V219000.
PORSCHE	BOXSTER	1997	98V112000.
SAAB	900	1995	98V038000.
TOYOTA	CAMRY	1994	98V155000.
TOYOTA	CAMRY	1997	97V213000.
TOYOTA	SIENNA	1998	97V188000.
VOLKSWAGEN	GTI	1995	98V160000.
VOLKSWAGEN	GTI	1995	98V195000.
VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA	1996	98V160000.
VOLKSWAGEN	NEW BEETLE	1998	98V100000.

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BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice No. 98-10]

Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, RSPA invites comments on certain information collections pertaining to hazardous materials transportation for which RSPA intends to request renewal from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 25, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address written comments to the Dockets Unit, Room PL 401, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: rules@rspa.dot.gov, or faxed to (202) 366-3753. Comments should identify the Notice number (98-10) and the appropriate Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number(s). Mailed written comments should be submitted in two copies. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their mailed written comments should include a self-addressed, stamped postcard showing the Notice number. The Dockets Unit is located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the U.S. Department of Transportation at the above address. Public information may be reviewed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Internet users may access all comments received by the U.S. Department of Transportation by using the Universal Resource Locator (URL) at <http://dms.dot.gov>. An electronic copy of the document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661.

Requests for a copy of an information collection should be directed to Deborah Boothe, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (DHM-10), Research and Special Programs Administration, Room

8102, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone (202) 366-8553.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Boothe, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (DHM-10), Research and Special Programs Administration, Room 8102, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone (202) 366-8553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1320.8(d), Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations requires that RSPA provide interested members of the public and affected agencies an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. This notice identifies information collections that RSPA is submitting to OMB for renewal and extension. These collections are contained in 49 CFR part 110, part 130, and parts 171-180. RSPA has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on changes in proposed or final rules published since the information collections were last approved. The following information is provided for each information collection: (1) Title of the information collection, including former title if a change is being made; (2) OMB control number; (3) summary of the information collection activity; (4) description of affected public; (5) estimate of total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden; and (6) frequency of collection. RSPA will request a three-year term of approval for each information collection activity and, when approved by OMB, publish notice of the approval in the **Federal Register**.

RSPA requests comments on the following information collections:

Title: Inspection and Testing of Portable Tanks and Intermediate Bulk Containers.

OMB Control Number: 2137-0018.

Summary: This information collection consolidates provisions for documenting qualifications, inspections, tests and approvals pertaining to the manufacture and use of portable tanks and intermediate bulk containers under various provisions of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Parts 171-180). It is necessary to ascertain whether portable tanks and intermediate bulk containers have been qualified, inspected and retested in accordance with the HMR. The information is used to verify that certain portable tanks and intermediate bulk containers meet required performance standards prior to their being authorized for use and to document periodic requalification and testing to ensure the packagings have not deteriorated due to

age or physical abuse to a degree that would render them unsafe for the transportation of hazardous materials. Applicable sections are as follows: § 173.32—retest, retest marking, and record retention for portable tanks; § 173.32a—approval of IM portable tanks; § 173.32b—periodic inspections and testing for IM portable tanks; § 178.245-6—certification markings for DOT-51 portable tanks; § 178.245-7—manufacturer's data report for DOT-51 portable tanks; § 178.255-14—certification markings for DOT-60 portable tanks; § 178.255-15—manufacturer's data report for DOT-60 portable tanks; § 178.270-14—certification marking of IM portable tanks; § 178.801—testing, retesting and recordkeeping for intermediate bulk containers; and § 180.352—periodic retests and inspections for intermediate bulk containers.

Affected Public: Manufacturers and owners of portable tanks and intermediate bulk containers.

Recordkeeping:

Number of Respondents: 314.

Total Annual Responses: 51,220.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 51,340.

Frequency of collection: On occasion.

Title: Testing, Inspection and Marking Requirements for Cylinders.

OMB Control Number: 2137-0022.

Summary: Requirements in § 173.34 for qualification, maintenance and use of cylinders require that cylinders be periodically inspected and retested to ensure continuing compliance with packaging standards. Information collection requirements address registration of retesters and marking of cylinders by retesters with their identification number and retest date following conduct of tests. Records showing the results of inspections and retests must be kept by the cylinder owner or designated agent until expiration of the retest period or until the cylinder is reinspected or retested, whichever occurs first. These requirements are intended to ensure that retesters have the qualifications to perform tests and to identify to cylinder fillers and users that cylinders are qualified for continuing use. Information collection requirements in § 173.303 require that fillers of acetylene cylinders keep, for at least 30 days, a daily record of the representative pressure to which cylinders are filled.

Affected Public: Fillers, owners, users and retesters of reusable cylinders.

Annual Reporting Burden:

Number of Respondents: 139,352.

Total Annual Responses: 153,287.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 168,431.

Frequency: On occasion.