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MEMORANDUM

To: Louis V. Lombardo
From: Alice and Randy Whitfield – Quality Control Systems Corp.
Date: April 30, 2013
Subject: FARS Data Analysis - Honda Motorcycles

We queried the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data [Reference 1] over calendar years 1982-2011 for records related to motorcycles manufactured by Honda Motor Company, Ltd. FARS provides information about fatal motor vehicle traffic accidents in the United States. The criteria for case inclusion in the FARS database are that the crash occur on a public road and that the fatality happen within thirty days of the crash [Reference 2]. The coverage of the data is known to be highly reliable, based on comparison studies with mortality data from the National Center for Health Statistics [Reference 3]. A simple search of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE citation database for "Fatal Accident Reporting System" or "Fatality Analysis Reporting System" or "FARS" yields more than 100 papers currently in the scientific literature that refer to or rely on FARS data [Reference 4].

We determined the make of these crash-involved vehicles based on the World Manufacturer Identifier in positions 1 through 3 of the reported Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) recorded in FARS [see Reference 5]: 1HF, 2HF, 3H1, 6H6, 9C2, JH2, LTM, LWB, ME4, RLH, VF9, VTM, and YC1. Only vehicles consistent with a body type of motorcycle ("Body Type" codes 20-29 in 1982 through 1990 or codes 80-89 in 1991 through 2011) are included in our queries.

Standardized VINs were only required beginning in 1981. As a consequence, the deaths reported here are likely to be undercounts for Honda motorcycles produced before 1981, as are deaths associated with vehicles when the VIN was not reported in FARS or was reported incorrectly. Table 1 shows summary counts of the deaths by calendar year. There are a total of 20,582 deaths included in Table 1.

Table 1 - Fatally Injured Passengers and Drivers
of Honda Motor Company Motorcycles
Summarized By Calendar Year, 1982-2011

Calendar Year	Total Drivers and Passengers Killed
1982	243
1983	421
1984	698
1985	910
1986	948
1987	938
1988	788
1989	733
1990	707
1991	662
1992	509
1993	495
1994	523
1995	540
1996	513
1997	474
1998	493
1999	553

Memorandum to Mr. Lombardo
April 30, 2013 – Page 3 of 5

Calendar Year	Total Drivers and Passengers Killed
2000	572
2001	658
2002	675
2003	697
2004	812
2005	857
2006	875
2007	985
2008	979
2009	751
2010	756
2011	817

REFERENCE

- 1) Fatality Analysis Reporting System. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Uniform Resource Locators:

<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/2011/SAS/FSAS2011.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/2010/SAS/FSAS2010.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/2009/SAS/FSAS2009.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/2008/SAS/FSAS2008.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/2007/SAS/FSAS2007.zip>
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<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/1986/SAS/FSAS86.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/1985/SAS/FSAS85.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/1984/SAS/FSAS84.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/1983/SAS/FSAS83.zip>
<ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/FARS/1982/SAS/FSAS82.zip>.

Memorandum to Mr. Lombardo
April 30, 2013 – Page 5 of 5

- 2) Joseph M. Tessmer. FARS Analytic Reference Guide, 1975 to 2006. Washington, D.C.: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2006, p. F-i.
- 3) See, for example, Susan P. Baker et al, The Injury Fact Book (Second Edition). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1992, p. 214.
- 4) Accessible online at <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>>
- 5) VINDICATOR, Version 2011.2, build 2.1.71, Arlington, VA: Highway Loss Data Institute; 2010.