



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: Information Access
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Our ref: **F0001262**

BY E-MAIL

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Date: 22nd May 2008

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Further to your email of 29 April 2008 to , in which you requested full details of the meeting held at Honda's Swindon plant on 28 April 2008. I now respond.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 presumes a right of access to information held by Public Authorities unless an exemption to release is engaged.

However, it does not give right to copies of documentation. I have therefore summarised the meeting below.

- (VOSA) met with two members of Honda (UK) Ltd and two members of Honda of the UK Manufacturing Ltd. Honda has not given permission for the names of their personnel to be released.
- The only agenda item was for Honda of the UK Manufacturing Ltd to present the findings of the further tests they conducted on the effects of the truncated spindle threads on Civic vehicles produced between September and December 2005.
- The tests were conducted on original and recreated truncated thread parts. All the tests parts achieved above the minimum specified design requirements.
- The conclusions reached are that the parts are fit for use.
- From market warranty data, there is no evidence whatsoever of problems with spindles.
- In respect of VOSA's investigation, our role, as we have explained in previous correspondence, is to establish in collaboration with the manufacturer, whether or not a deficiency in the design or construction of the Spindles exists which is liable to cause significant risk of personal injury or death. No evidence whatsoever has been found. Therefore VOSA has closed this investigation.

- In respect of BS AU 50: Part 2: Section 3: 1995, VOSA has no role in this. Standards are designed for voluntary use and do not impose any regulations, unless laws and regulations refer to them and make compliance with them compulsory. In the case of Spindles, VOSA is not aware of any legislation.

If you have any queries about the information you have received, please contact me, and I will be happy to assist you. My contact details are given at the head of this letter.

If you are unhappy with the information supplied, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

VOSA Corporate Office,
Berkeley House,
Croydon Street,
Bristol,
BS5 0DA

or email vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk

giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction. It will help us if you quote the reference number for your case.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0001262**.

Yours sincerely

VOSA Information Access

An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport