

Bethesda, MD

10135594

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
NVS-210, 400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Sub: BMW Motorcycle, 2002 R1150R, Fuel Line Recall, Fuel Leak Problem

Dear Sir/Madam:

On Aug 5 2005, my 2002 BMW R1150R (VIN WB10439A22Z [REDACTED]) developed a fuel leak during operation that resulted in gasoline being sprayed on the engine block and my right leg. This was an extremely hazardous situation and I immediately switched off the engine and had the motorcycle transported to the dealer where it was purchased and where it is regularly serviced. A pre-ride inspection had not revealed any gasoline leak. I took possession of the motorcycle on August 11th and was told that the male end of one of the quick disconnects on the fuel had cracked, apparently spontaneously. The motorcycle has only been serviced by a BMW approved dealer. I restrict my maintenance work to cleaning and occasional oil changes and I have never tampered with the fuel system.

I would like to report this incident to the NHTSA because this is an alarming safety issue. Particularly because the quick disconnect coupling is referred to in recall notice 04V-028 which was sent to me by BMW in 2004. The recall service was performed on my motorcycle so it is very very concerning that the fuel-leak problem should recur. A number of incidents of this nature have been reported on the BMW motorcycle user web sites and it's just inconceivable to me that BMW would not take more aggressive action to address such a hazardous defect. The repair work was covered under warranty. However, I was billed for towing charges. I believe that this is unfair since the service was not required due to a fault of mine, the motorcycle is still under warranty, and this is a far from routine breakdown. I also used a towing service recommended by the dealer. Therefore, I asked BMW to cover this charge. I received a letter from BMW customer service expressing sympathy but declining to cover the cost of transporting the motorcycle.

Annamari
9/24/05

By declining to cover transportation charges for vehicles that have failed due to this documented defect in BMW's fuel line system, BMW of North America is simply declining responsibility for the shoddy design that predisposes to parts failure and creates a hazardous situation. I respectfully ask the NHTSA to enforce the spirit of the recall notice and require BMW to cover the cost of transporting motorcycles such as mine that have experienced this defect even after a recall service was performed. When this failure occurs an extremely hazardous situation results and the NHTSA should demand responsible behavior.

Respectfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.