



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

December 27, 2012

[REDACTED]
Elkins, WV [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10480482

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2009 Yamaha Star XVS95Y motorcycle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicated while riding your MY 2009 Yamaha Star motorcycle it suddenly began to lug and wobble without warning. Motorcycle riders following you said that they could see and smell smoke. You managed to pull onto the side of the road where you noticed grease all over the rear of the motorcycle around the rear axle. Upon further inspection you discovered that the rear axle appeared to be broken and one side had fallen out. You contacted Yamaha and a local dealership repaired the motorcycle at no cost to you. You were able to see the failed parts before the dealer returned them to Yamaha. It appears that axle was cut and then broke in half without any warning. Therefore, you want to make NHTSA aware of this safety problem.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with rear axle failures in MY 2009 Yamaha Star XVS95Y motorcycles vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to indicate a defect trend and thus warrant opening a safety defect investigation. However, the information you provided has been entered into our database. It will

be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. For your information, the NHTSA investigation and recall process can be found on our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement