



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30, 2013

[REDACTED]
Canyon Lake, CA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nam
Ref. No. 10524430

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2009 BMW R1200GS motorcycle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received your correspondence. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

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 indicate that you experienced a final drive failure in while riding your MY 2009 BMW R1200GS motorcycle on May 24, 2013. You are aware that this problem is currently being investigated by NHTSA under DP12-001. You declined BMW's offer for goodwill assistance towards the repair because it was contingent on you signing a waiver. You want your report to be considered with other reports for this problem and our investigation.

On January 20, 2012, ODI received a defect petition (DP12-001, closing resume enclosed) requesting that it open an investigation into MY 1998 through MY 2009 BMW KLT series motorcycles for final drive bearing failures. The petitioner asked NHTSA to issue an order that required BMW to recall the affected models for inspection of component wear and proper assembly of the final drive bearing. ODI has reviewed the petition, assessed relevant consumer complaints, and gathered other data in the course of investigating this issue. Based on its review, ODI does not believe that a safety-related defect trend currently exists for final drive bearing failures in the subject motorcycles. Therefore, in view of the need to allocate and prioritize NHTSA's limited resources to accomplish the agency's safety mission, the petition is denied and our investigation closed on June 20, 2013. However, the agency will continue to monitor information related to this issue and will take further action if warranted.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at our web site.

Sincerely,

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

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

Enclosure



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ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA
Authentic U.S. Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
uses a digital certificate to ensure
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Investigation: DP 12-001
Prompted by: Consumer Letter
Date Opened: 01/20/2012
Investigator: Robert Young
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: M/C final drive ball bearing failure
Date Closed: 06/20/2013
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BMW of North America, LLC
Products: 1998-2009 BMW K1200LT
Population: 15,413

Problem Description: Final Drive Crown Gear Ball Bearing Assembly progressive failure resulting in gear oil loss and/or bearing destruction with consequent rear wheel looseness.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	122	0	122
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	70	0	70

*Description of Other: 70 complaints at BMWFinalDrive.com / Manufacturer reports were not obtained.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: The petition is denied.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a defect petition requesting that it open an investigation into model year (MY) 1998-2009 BMW KLT series motorcycles for final drive bearing failures. The petitioner asked NHTSA to issue an order that [BMW] be required to recall the affected models for inspection of component wear and proper assembly of the [final drive] bearing.

ODI has reviewed the petition, assessed relevant consumer complaints, and gathered other data in the course of investigating this issue.

Based on its review, ODI does not believe that a safety-related defect trend currently exists for final drive bearing failures in the subject motorcycles. Therefore, in view of the need to allocate and prioritize NHTSA's limited resources to accomplish the agency's safety mission, the petition is denied. However, the agency will continue to monitor information related to this issue and will take further action if warranted.

For detailed information, see the Federal Register notice: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-13779>.