



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-044

Date Opened: 10/19/2006

Date Closed: 1/17/2007

Principal Investigator: *Bob Young*

Subject: Fuel tank leaks

Manufacturer: Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

Products: MY 2004-6 EX250 Motorcycle

Population: 29,559

Problem Description: Fuel tank punctured by fairing retaining screw.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Kawasaki Warranty Claims:	0	68**	68

**Description Of Other: 68 warranty claims plus a confidential number of EWR field reports.

Action: Kawasaki's recall (07V003) addresses this issue. This PE is closed.

Engineer: *Bob Young*

Date: 01/17/2007

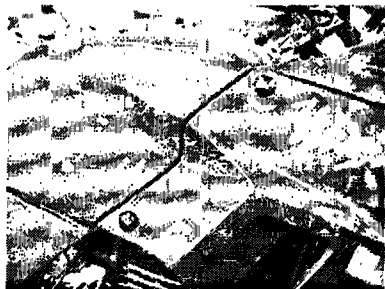
Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd*

Date: 01/17/2007

Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter*

Date: 01/17/2007

Summary: ODI opened this investigation based solely on a number of Kawasaki field reports concerning an alleged fuel tank leak on MY 2004-6 EX250 "Ninja" motorcycles. These reports were submitted under NHTSA's "Early Warning Reporting (EWR) requirements and consistently mentioned the tank is leaking fuel when it was punctured by a fairing retaining screw during vehicle assembly. Subsequently, Kawasaki decided to recall the motorcycles and correct the condition.



Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

January 2, 2007

Mr. George Person
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Person:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004 - 2007 model year Kawasaki Motorcycles. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information immediately available. Additional information needed to fully comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c) will be submitted in a subsequent report.

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The affected vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors Enterprise Thailand (KMT) and imported to the United States by KMC, which will assume responsibility for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: This recall involves 2004, 2005, 2006, and some 2007 model year Kawasaki EX250 motorcycles as noted below ("L" indicates California specification).

Model	Year	Begin VIN	End VIN	Quantity
EX250-F18/L	2004	JKAEXMF1	JKAEXMF1	7,600
EX250-F19/L	2005	JKAEXMF1	JKAEXMF1	8,404
EX250F6F/L	2006	JKAEXMF1	JKAEXMF1	10,006
EX250F7F/L	2007	JKAEXMF1	JKAEXMF1	3,549

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 29,559 vehicles are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: A small, but unknown percentage of units are estimated to contain the defect. All potentially affected vehicles will be eligible for inspection under this recall.
- 5) A description of the defect including both brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location of the defect: Brief summary: The fuel tank may have been punctured or weakened by a fairing mounting screw or manufacturing operation.

Details: The fairing is attached to the front portion of the fuel tank via screws that attach to nuts welded to the exterior of the tank. It appears that two scenarios could lead to the problem: On

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Santa Ana, California
92799-5252

949/770-0400
Fax 949/460-5600
www.kawasaki.com

9950 Jeronimo Road
Irvine, California
92618-2084

some units, a screw that was too long may have been used to attach the fairing, and the tip of the screw punctured the outer surface of the tank. Alternatively, the threads of the nut could become damaged when aligning the fairing with the tank during initial installation, or paint could have blocked the threads. In an effort to clean the threads, a tap was run into the nut. Because the depth of travel of the tap was not properly controlled, the tip of the tap may have punctured the outer surface of the tank.

- 6) A chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information with their dates of receipt: To date, KMC has received 68 warranty claims for leaking tanks that it believes are related to this matter. These claims were received from 10/10/03 to 9/16/06.

On October 26, 2006 KMC received a request for information concerning this matter from NHTSA. Pursuant to this information request, both KMC and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI - the vehicle designer, and manufacturer prior to transferring manufacturing operations to KMT beginning with the 2004 model year) conducted additional investigation. An initial response to NHTSA's request was provided on December 1, 2006.

The decision to undertake recall action was initiated by KHI on December 27, 2006.

- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained:
(See above).
- 8) A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect. The estimated date upon which it will begin sending notifications to owners that there is a safety-related defect. KMC will distribute a Recall Service Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. Target date for this information is January 10, 2007. KMC will send a Recall letter to all owners of the affected models, using KMC warranty records. Target date for this mailing is January 12, 2007.
- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the draft customer letter will be forwarded to NHTSA for review as soon as it is prepared. Final copies of the dealer bulletin and customer letter will be provided to NHTSA once they have been finalized.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,
KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.

Roger F. Hagie
Director Public Affairs