

July 18, 2004

Mr. George Person
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

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 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 vehicles in question were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Akashi, Japan, and imported to the U.S. by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The defect affects the 2004 model Kawasaki VN2000 A1 (&A1-L) "Vulcan 2000" motorcycle. A total of 3019 units in the U.S. are affected, with serial numbers from 000059 through 004668.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: See above.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For purposes of this Recall, 100% of the vehicles are assumed to be affected.
- 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 description: The front brake hose can become trapped between the front fork and fender, with subsequent motion of the front suspension abrading the brake hose.
Detailed description: The front brake hoses are routed from a junction mounted to the underside of the lower triple clamp to their respective callipers (one for each of the two front discs). The angle of the hoses as they depart the junction is fixed such that the hoses describe a slight rearward arc on their way to the callipers. The hoses are covered by a rubberized sleeve that fits around the actual brake hose and covers the hose its full length, except for the fittings on each end. It appears that some actions unrelated to operation of the motorcycle (such as wiping the fender while cleaning the motorcycle) can push the hose forward so that it can become wedged between the front fork and the front fender. If entrapped in this manner, the brake hose is subject to abrasion by the lower edge of the front fork cover as the front suspension operates through its travel. Eventually this could weaken the brake hose and lead to failure.
- 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: This information will be provided in a subsequent communication.
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: This information will be provided in a subsequent communication.

- 8) A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect. The estimated date on which it will begin sending notifications to owners that there is a safety-related defect:

Dealers: KMC will notify all Kawasaki retailers by means of a Recall Service Bulletin, which will be mailed (via First Class Mail) to all dealers, as well as made available to dealers through a number of other electronic and hard-copy distribution channels. Initial Recall Bulletin mailing is scheduled for Friday, July 30 with a second copy of the Bulletin to be mailed directly to the dealer's Service Manager the following Monday, August 2.

Owners: Owners of affected vehicles will be notified by a Recall letter, sent via First Class mail, based upon KMC warranty registration records. Customer notification is scheduled for Monday, August 2. During the week of August 2, information concerning the Recall will appear on Kawasaki's website (www.kawasaki.com).

Repair will consist of adding a bracket to support the brake hoses, and prevent them from inadvertently being pushed forward into the fender / fork interface area. All Recall repairs will be performed by Kawasaki retailers at no cost to the consumer. Any consumers that paid to have repairs performed outside of warranty coverage will be advised they can seek reimbursement from KMC for the costs of such repairs.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until August 2, 2004, the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries. Attached is a copy of a letter to Kathleen DeMeter, ODI Director, reiterating this request.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the customer letter will be forwarded to NHTSA for review and approval as soon as it is available. Other documents, such as the recall bulletin, will be forwarded 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. Hagle
Director Public Affairs

Attachment: Letter dated July 16, 2004 to Kathleen DeMeter