

04V-465
(4 pages)

September 21, 2004

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter
Director of Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
US Department of Transportation, Room 5326
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

The following information is submitted in accordance with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's reporting regulations, 49CFR Part 573.6.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company has decided that a defect may exist in certain 2004 and 2005 model motorcycles built for the California market, including all Touring, Softail, Dyna, V-Rod and XL families.

IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:

The following motorcycles built for the California market contain an evaporative fuel canister on which a port may be blocked. The suspect canisters were installed in 1,772 vehicles built at the York, Pennsylvania plant between June 22nd and July 29th of 2004, and 1,056 vehicles built at the Kansas City plant between June 22nd and July 29th 2004. There are a total of 2,828 affected models including all Touring, Softail, Dyna, V-Rod and XL families.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:

The above identified motorcycles could have a condition that could allow pressure to build up in the fuel tank. On fuel injected vehicles, this condition could cause fuel to spray out unexpectedly when the fuel cap is removed. On carbureted vehicles, excessive fuel could be transferred to the carburetor, which would eventually allow fuel to drip from the air cleaner. These situations could cause serious personal injury or create a fire hazard for persons or property on or near the motorcycle.

SUPPLIER INFORMATION:

MPC
100 Wisconsin Street
St. Walworth, WI 53184
Sales Manager: Janice Stocking
Phone Number: 262-275-5791 Ext. 2204

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

During the standard audit process at our York, PA. plant, an auditor noticed pressure in a fuel tank when the cap was removed. An evaluation of the evap system identified a blocked port in the Evaporative Fuel Canister. Further investigation discovered additional vehicles exhibiting the same condition. Containment was achieved at the York and Kansas City Plant. By working with the supplier, the batch of suspect vehicles was identified. After continued testing and evaluation, as a precautionary measure, Harley-Davidson Motor Company declared a safety recall on September 15th, 2004.

To our knowledge there have been no injuries or deaths related to this situation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:

The remedy of this issue is to test each canister for blockage, then replace those that are defective.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR COMPANY PRE-NOTIFICATION REMEDY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:

Harley-Davidson Motor Company incorporates by reference herein the general reimbursement plan it has previously provided to NHTSA for reimbursing customers for remedy costs incurred prior to notification of this recall.

PART 577 NOTICE LETTER:

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned by ODI to this recall.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Mundt
For Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.

DRAFT

Dear Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004 and 2005 model motorcycles built for the California market, including all Touring, Softail, Dyna, V-Rod and XL families. These vehicles contain an evaporative fuel canister on which a port may be blocked. This condition could allow pressure to build up in the fuel tank. On fuel injected vehicles, this condition could cause fuel to spray out unexpectedly when the fuel cap is removed. On carbureted vehicles, excessive fuel could be transferred to the carburetor, which would eventually allow fuel to drip from the air cleaner. These situations could cause serious personal injury or create a fire hazard for persons or property on or near the motorcycle.

Our records indicate that you purchased one of the motorcycles involved in this safety recall identified by the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) on the enclosed material.

We strongly urge you to take your motorcycle to your dealer to have the appropriate service performed as soon as possible. Should you choose to ride your motorcycle prior to this service, we urge you to be aware of this condition.

Please contact your Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealer immediately and arrange an appointment to have your canister inspected and, if necessary, replaced. The dealer labor time to perform this service takes less than two hours and the parts and labor will be free of charge to you. Parts should be available at your dealership the week of October 11, 2004.

To verify that the service has been completed, your dealer will ask you to sign a recall claim. If you have sold your motorcycle, please forward the appropriate information about your purchaser to us. This will enable us to contact him/her and advise that person of this recall. Also, Federal regulation requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If you had this repair before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact Harley-Davidson at 1-414-343-4056.

If you take your motorcycle to your dealer on a mutually agreed upon date and he does not perform the required service to your satisfaction, please contact Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. for immediate assistance at the address or telephone number listed on this letterhead. If your dealer or Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. fails or is unable to remedy your motorcycle without charge within a reasonable time, you may wish to inform the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 25090, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-DASH-2DOT or contact NHTSA at www.NHTSA.DOT.GOV.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you, but we are initiating this action in the interest of your personal safety and satisfaction with our products. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.