



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/342-1680

December 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

04V-607  
(6 pages)

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, Inc. has learned that a defect exists in the fuel valve in certain 2005 model year carbureted motorcycles.

**IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:**

Harley-Davidson has determined, after reviewing its vehicle production and parts shipment records, that a total of 995 defective fuel valves (see description below) were manufactured. This campaign will cover the entire motorcycle and equipment population potentially containing the subject defect, in portions of which the 995 defective fuel valves could have been installed as original equipment or shipped to aftermarket customers, as follows:

- (a) Total MY 2005 vehicle US population: 9,501, consisting of 5,719 Sportsters; 980 Dynas; 1,849 Softails and 953 Touring motorcycles.
- (b) Total fuel valve parts/kits shipped to the field: 364. The parts/kits consist of four separate part numbers, as follows: part # 61338-02, 62169-02A, 61338-94D and 62169-95C.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

A component of the fuel shut-off valve was defectively manufactured by the supplier. As a result the functionality of the "on" position and the "reserve" position of the valve have been reversed. Consequently, when the control handle of the valve is set in the "on" position the valve actually selects the "reserve" position fuel flow path, and when the valve is in the "reserve" position it selects the "on" flow path. When the operator of a vehicle with one of these valves is operating the bike with the valve in the "on" position, and begins to run out of fuel, the expected fuel reserve will not be available. If this occurs it could create a "quit while riding" situation which could lead to a crash, thereby causing death or injury to the rider.

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION:**

Taiyo Giken America  
29836 Aveinda De Las Banderas  
Rancho Santa Margari, CA 92688  
Contact: Kanji Nanjo, Distribution Site Mgr.  
(949) 766-8059

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:**

On approximately November 17, 2004, Harley-Davidson became aware of an issue with a Fuel Valve not operating properly on a vehicle being reviewed by the Quality Audit department at their Kansas City plant. Subsequent investigation of parts on the assembly lines at that plant, as well as at the York plant, confirmed that a problem existed. On November 18 a shipping hold was placed on all motorcycles at both plants, as well as replacement parts at the Franklin Distribution Center. The ensuing investigation enabled Harley-Davidson to discover the defect described in the "Description of Defect" section above. As a precautionary measure, Harley-Davidson Motor Company declared a safety recall on December 15, 2004.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:**

The remedy of this defect is to inspect each suspect vehicle and replace the fuel valves found to be 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.  
*RM*



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/343-4680

## **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 on certain 2005 carbureted Sportsters, Dyna, Softail and Touring model Motorcycles. These vehicles were built with a fuel shut-off valve that was defectively manufactured by our supplier. As a result the functionality of the "on" position and the "reserve" position of the valve have been reversed. Consequently, when the control handle of the valve is set in the "on" position the valve actually selects the "reserve" position fuel flow path, and when the valve is in the "reserve" position it selects the "on" flow path. When the operator of a vehicle with one of these valves is operating the bike with the valve in the "on" position, and begins to run out of fuel, the expected fuel reserve will not be available. This could lead to the driver running out of gas without warning and cause an accident with resulting injuries or death.

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

We strongly urge you to take your motorcycle to your dealer to have the appropriate service performed as soon as possible. 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. 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 fuel valve inspected and replaced if necessary. The dealer labor time to perform this service takes less than 1 hour and the parts and labor will be free of charge to you. Parts should be available at your dealership on approximately the week of January 17, 2005. 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. 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 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, The 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](http://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.

## **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 some fuel valve parts/kits. These parts/kits consist of four separate part numbers as follows; Part # 61338-02, 62169-02A, 61338-94D and 62169-95C. These parts/kits were manufactured defectively by our supplier. As a result the functionality of the "on" position and the "reserve" position of the valve have been reversed. Consequently, when the control handle of the valve is set in the "on" position the valve actually selects the "reserve" position fuel flow path, and when the valve is in the "reserve" position it selects the "on" flow path. When the operator of a vehicle with one of these valves is operating the bike with the valve in the "on" position, and begins to run out of fuel, the expected fuel reserve will not be available. This could lead to the driver running out of gas without warning and cause an accident with resulting injuries or death.**

**Dealer records indicate that you have purchased one of these parts/kits involved in this safety recall, and therefore may have installed on your vehicle.**

**If you or the dealer have installed one of these suspect valves on your motorcycle, we strongly urge you to take your motorcycle to your dealer to have the valve inspected for proper operation as soon as possible. If you had this inspection and/or repair completed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of the repair. For more information contact Harley-Davidson at 1-414-343-4056. 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 fuel valve inspected and replaced if necessary. The dealer labor time to perform this service takes less than 1 hour and the parts and labor will be free of charge to you. Parts should be available at your dealership on approximately the week of January 17, 2005. 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. 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 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, The 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](http://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.