

aprilia

aprilia usa

October 31, 2005

BY FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

TO: (202) 366-4933
(202) 366-4806

05V-506
(3 pages)

Mr. Richard Boyd
Mr. Robert Young
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: DEFECT NOTIFICATION CAMPAIGN REGARDING APRILIA RST
FUTURA AND ETV MILLE CAPONORD MOTORCYCLES

Dear Messrs Young and Boyd:

We write to provide information pursuant to the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and 49 CFR 573. Aprilia USA World Services, Inc. ("Aprilia") has determined that the fuel line quick connectors on all Aprilia RST 1000 Futura ("Futura") models, and certain ETV Mille Caponord ("Caponord") motorcycles, may break if care is not used when removing the fuel tank at the time of service, resulting in inadvertent fuel leakage. Accordingly, given Aprilia's concerns about the safety of these vehicles, Aprilia intends to conduct a defect notification campaign whereby said quick connectors on all affected vehicles will be replaced with a suitable part that is not subject to the same potential failures. Aprilia believes that if this component is replaced, this will eliminate any potential risk to the users of the subject vehicles.

1. Manufacturers Name: Aprilia S.p.A.,Ltd.

Imported Vehicle Distributor: Aprilia USA World Services, Inc.
109 Smoke Hill Lane, Suite 190
Woodstock, GA 30188-7352.

2. Vehicles Affected: This campaign shall affect all RST 1000 Futura models manufactured from 2000 to 2004 (a total of 897 potential vehicles), and ETV Mille Caponord models manufactured from 2002 to 2004 (a total of 413 potential vehicles) that have not previously received replacement part number 8144623. There are no documented customer complaints on record at Aprilia USA, Inc.

aprilia U.S.A., Inc.

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3. Total Number of Subject Vehicles potentially containing defect: See response to category number 2.
4. Affected Range: All 2001 – 2004 RST Futura models, all 2002 – 2003 ETV Caponord models.
5. Campaign involves the replacement of quick connect components for all Futura and certain Caponord motorcycles. A technical service bulletin will be provided to all dealers and authorized repair facilities and will state detailed information concerning the repair of said vehicles. Specific photographic documentation will be previously provided to NHTSA along with the service related documentation.
6. Aprilia has been notified by Aprilia S.p.A., Ltd that such indicated potential failures may occur. Aprilia has never been informed of any injuries or accidents as a result of the failure of the subject components.
7. Not applicable.
8. Aprilia shall provide the Office of Defects Investigation with a proposed owners' notification and envelope to be used for mailing to customers, with a request for approval of the same by NHTSA. We will also provide a copy of the Technical Bulletin and owners' letter to NHTSA for approval. With regard to the Caponord, all of the parts necessary to effectuate this campaign shall be available within fourteen (14) days, and the mailing for this vehicle should be accomplished within (14) days of approval of the documentation and assignment of the recall number by NHTSA. However, as previously disclosed to NHTSA, the parts necessary to accomplish the campaign for the Futura have yet to be manufactured and tested. Consequently, Aprilia believes and is so notified by its parent company that the parts should be available on or about December 28, 2005. Therefore, Aprilia anticipates notifying its customers by November 30, 2005 that the campaign will begin on or about January 9, 2006. For both vehicles, will replace the subject components free of charge to the customer.
9. Not applicable.
10. Aprilia shall provide NHTSA with the applicable owners' letter and envelope and Technical Service Bulletin.

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We thank you very much for your assistance as we carry out this important recall campaign. Kindly indicate which numerical designation you intend to provide for this campaign so that we include this number in the notification to our dealers and customers. If you should need any further information, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

APRILIA USA WORLD SERVICES, INC

Erik Larson, Director of Technical Services