

January 3, 2006

06V-005
4 pages

Kathleen DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigations
National Highway Traffic Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Recall # (not yet issued)

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning the recall described in the attached initial notification to its web site until January 18, 2006, the projected date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealers will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

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

Roger F. Hagie
Director Public Affairs

Attachment: Jan. 3, 2006 Defect Notification letter

RECEIVED
JAN 10 A 7 22
2006

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

January 3, 2006

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 2006 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 were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors Enterprise (Thailand) Co., Ltd., 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: Affected vehicles consist of the 2006 model year Kawasaki BN125.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 103 of the affected models were imported to the US.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For purposes of this recall 100% of the vehicles will be assumed to contain the defect.
- 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 - the left side pinch bolt hole on the lower triple clamp was not threaded deeply enough, resulting in insufficient clamping force on the left fork leg.

Detailed - The front fork assembly consists of an upper and lower triple clamp which secure the fork legs, and pivot to provide steering via the handlebars which fasten to the upper triple clamp. Due to a machining program error by the front fork vendor, the pinch bolt hole on the left side of the lower triple clamp was not threaded to the full design depth. The upper triple clamp, and right side of the lower clamp are not affected. The insufficiently threaded hole allows the pinch bolt to be tightened to its designed torque value, but doing so does not provide sufficient clamping force by the lower triple clamp on the left side fork tube. It is possible that this condition could cause steering problems leading to a crash.

- 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

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92618-2084

other information with their dates of receipt: This information will be provided in a supplemental report.

- 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 on 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 retailers. Repair will consist of tapping the bolt hole to a sufficient depth, and ensuring proper torque is applied to the bolt. Customers will be notified with a Recall Letter which will be sent on January 16, 2006. Customers will be advised that they can request reimbursement from KMC if they have previously incurred costs to have this problem corrected.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until at least January 16, 2006, the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealers will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A draft copy of the customer letter will be provided to NHTSA as soon as it becomes available. Copies of final dealer bulletin and customer letter will be provided to NHTSA when they become available.

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