

April 19, 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 affected vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. of Akashi, Japan. They were imported to the United States by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. which will be responsible for conducting this recall campaign.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The affected vehicles are 2006 model year Kawasaki ZX1000D6F and D6F/L (California specification) motorcycles.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 6,746 units were imported to the U.S.
- 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: A bolt securing the steering damper can loosen, allowing the damper to become dislodged and interfere with steering assembly movement.

Detailed: A steering damper is fitted to the affected models. It is secured to a bracket on the frame in front of the fuel tank, and to a bracket attached to the right side of the steering assembly top clamp. The bolt securing the damper body to the frame bracket may not have been tightened sufficiently during vehicle assembly. If this bolt loosens and backs out, the damper can inhibit steering movement if it becomes wedged between the steering assembly top clamp and the frame mounting bracket. Loss of steering control could contribute to a crash with the potential for injury or death.

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- 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 supplemental submission.
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: This information will be provided in a supplemental submission.
- 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 provide (by mail and electronic delivery) a Recall Service Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle retailers. Target date for this communication is April 28. KMC will provide, via first class mail, a Recall letter to all owners of the affected vehicles using KMC warranty records. Target date for this mailing is May 1. Customers will be advised to return their motorcycles to a Kawasaki dealer. Dealers will be instructed to secure the steering damper mounting bolt to the specified torque and verify proper free-play of the steering damper body. Customers that may have experienced this failure previously will be advised they can request reimbursement from KMC for charges related to a previous correction.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until May 1, 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.

- 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 text will be provided to NHTSA for review and approval. Copies of the final customer letter and the dealer bulletin will be provided to NHTSA when 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. Hagie
Director Public Affairs