



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 26, 2008

MR. DAVID RYAN
GENERAL MANAGER
BIG BEAR AMERICAN MADE CHOPPERS, INC.
41922 FOX FARM RD
PO BOX 1741
BIG BEAR LAKE CA 92315

NVS-215dgl
08V-129

Subject: FRAME FAILURE

Dear MR. RYAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Big Bear American Made Choppers, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BIG BEAR CHOPPERS/DEVILS ADVOCATE CHOPPERS/2004-2005
BIG BEAR CHOPPERS/SLED CHOPPERS/2005
BIG BEAR CHOPPERS/VENOM CHOPPERS/2004-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-129

Mfg's Report Date: March 20, 2008

Components: STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 351

Summary:

BIG BEAR CHOPPERS IS RECALLING 351 MY 2004-2005 VENOM AND DEVIL'S ADVOCATES CHOPPERS AND MY 2005 SLED CHOPPERS. SOME MOTORCYCLES MAY HAVE INADEQUATE WELD PENETRATION BETWEEN THE NECK, BACKBONE, AND DOWN TUBES OF THE FRAME. HIGH LOADS CREATED WHEN RIDING ON ROUGH ROAD SURFACES, STRUCTURAL MODIFICATION MADE TO THE FRAME BY OWNERS, AND/OR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE SPECIFIED TORQUE SETTING OF THE TOP MOTOR MOUNT MAY CAUSE THE AFFECTED WELDS TO CRACK.

Consequence:

THE WELDED AREA COULD BREAK WITHOUT WARNING RESULTING IN NECK SEPARATION AND FRONT-END COLLAPSE. THIS COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND MAINTAIN THE PROPER TORQUE OF THE TOP MOTOR MOUNT OR MODIFY THE FRAME AS NECESSARY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH OR APRIL 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BIG BEAR CHOPPER AT 1-909-878-4340.

Notes:

BIG BEAR CHOPPERS RECALL NO. 1B9/631. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement