



January 23, 2008

Via Registered Mail

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2008 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 ("KHI") and imported to the United States by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. ("KMC") which will be responsible for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: This recall involves 2008 model year Kawasaki ZG1400 motorcycles as noted below.

Model	Year	Beginning VIN	Ending VIN
ZG1400A8F/A8FL	2008	JKBZGNA1□8A005038	JKBZGNA1□8A011423
ZG1400B8F/B8FL	2008	JKBZGNB1□8A005008	JKBZGNB1□8A007204

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 3,611 vehicles are affected.
- 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: The rear carrier platform may not be strong enough to withstand the longitudinal forces associated with mounting and use of certain common accessories. The rear carrier consists of a frame with a plastic load carrying platform.

While the platform is fully capable of carrying the recommended weight, it may not be strong enough to withstand the fore-and-aft longitudinal forces that might be associated with mounting of a "top box" to the platform, particularly if the top box is used as a backrest by a passenger. In such a situation, the platform could break, creating the potential for an accident leading to a serious injury or death.


- 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: These will be provided in a subsequent 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 notify all authorized Kawasaki motorcycle dealers by means of a recall bulletin. Target date for sending the bulletin is February 1, 2008. Kawasaki will notify all purchasers of the affected models using Kawasaki warranty records. Customer recall letters are expected to be mailed on February 5, 2008. KMC will reimburse customers that may have experienced this failure, if the failure was not already covered by the Kawasaki warranty.

Please note that the customer letter for this recall will be combined with the letter for another recall that affects all of the units affected by this recall. KMC will send the combined customer recall letter to NHTSA for review and approval.

- 9) Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until February 5, 2008, 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.
- 10) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. These will be provided to NHTSA once 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