



March 6, 2008

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

08V-115
(2 pages)

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 motorcycles were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors Enterprise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (KMT), and imported to the United States by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. which will be responsible for the conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The following models are affected by this recall:

Model	Year	Begin VIN	End VIN
EX250J8F / L8FL	2008	TBD	TBD
("L" model indicates CA specification)			

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: TBD.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For purposes of this recall, it will be assumed that 100% of the vehicles are affected.
- 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:

Summary: On some eligible units, the front brake hose may be damaged over a long period of use. Detailed: The front brake hose is fixed at the lower triple clamp and at the front brake caliper and moves freely, deflecting rearwards when the suspension compresses. Due to manufacturing tolerances, on a small number of the affected vehicles the brake hose tends to deflect forward during suspension travel. This allows the brake hose to contact the edge of the front fork outer tube. Over time, this contact could damage the brake hose causing the brake fluid to leak and resulting in a lack of front brake performance. This can create the risk of collision, resulting in a risk of 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:

January 28, 2008: KMC reports to Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. (KHI, the vehicle designer) that the protective tube over the front brake hose on an early production machine is found to be scuffed. KHI initiates an investigation.

February 2008: KHI conducts an endurance test and determines the potential for the brake hose to become damaged based on contact with the front fork outer tube.

February 29, 2008: KHI notifies KMC to initiate recall campaign.

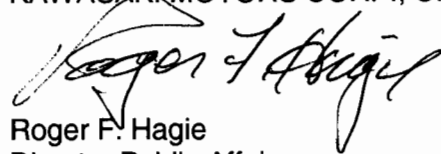
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: See above.
- 8) A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect. The estimated date on which it will begin sending notifications to owners that there is a safety-related defect:

KMC will provide electronic and paper copies of a Recall Service Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. Target date for sending these bulletins is March 14, 2008. Using warranty registration data, KMC will send Recall Letters to all purchasers of the affected units. Target date for sending these letters is March 17, 2008. A copy of the proposed customer Recall letter will be forwarded for NHTSA's review and approval.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. These will be provided to NHTSA when they are 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