

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On September 2, 2008, Aprilia, Noale, Italy decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle listed below, and Aprilia's designated agent Piaggio Group Americas, Inc. New York, NY, is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: 10/3/08

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Not assigned as of yet

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.
140 45th Street, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Telephone Number: 212 380 4431

Fax No.: 212 380 4458

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Pat Raymond
Director Aftersales
Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

Signed:



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall: Aprilia Scarabeo 500

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Aprilia **Model Years Involved:** 2006, 2007, 2008

Model(s): Scarabeo 500

Production Dates:

Beginning:

Ending:

2006 MY 2/2006	to	Production dates for the 2006 MY to be verified.
2007 MY 3/14/07	to	6/19/07
2008 MY 9/13/07	to	10/30/07

VIN Range:

Beginning:

Ending:

2006: ZD4RTC0106S	2006: ZD4RTC01X6S
2007: ZD4VRC0007S	2007: ZD4VRC00X70
2008: ZD4VRC008S00	2008: ZD4VRC00X8S

Vehicle Type: MC

Bodystyle: MC/Scooter

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: Production date.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period? 100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Vehicles: Approximately 850

Model Year Potentially Involved: 2006, 2007, 2008

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: Approximately 500.

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 60%.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Production information from Aprilia Italy was sorted by model year and VIN for all production dates before March 12, 2008

Aprilia Italy, together with the supplier of the fuel pump component, identified the motorcycle production date range, for US specification models, of February 2006 October 30, 2007 as the time during which the fuel pump assembly in question was used. On this fuel pump assembly, the length of fuel hose connecting the fuel pump to the fuel filter was assembled with a "push fit". Subsequent use of the scooter, together with the affects of fuel of different levels of quality and content of additives allowed the fuel hose to loosen and in some cases come off of the fitting on either the fuel pump or the fuel filter.

The fuel pump component manufacturer added hose clamps to secure the fuel hose connection to the fuel pump and the fuel filter. These components have been used in series production since March 12, 2008 for markets outside of the US and as of production date July 3, 2008 for US specification models.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The concern of this recall is centered on the possibility that the fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump may come loose. If this fuel hose connection is loose, or has become completely disconnected, then there will be a drop in, or loss of, fuel pressure to the engine. With a loose connection, the rider may experience difficulty in starting the motorcycle or experience a rough running engine while operating the motorcycle. If, in the worse case, this connection comes completely loose, allowing the fuel filter to become completely disconnected from the fuel pump, there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure to the engine and the engine would stall as a result. As the fuel pump/fuel filter component is located inside the fuel tank of the subject scooter, there is no visible indication of a problem or potential problem. It is only through the drop in/loss of fuel pressure and the subsequent operational problems experienced that the problem is communicated to the rider.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump was installed with a "push fit" only, using the friction of the hose to the mounting spigot as the only method of securing the hose in these locations. With the affects of fuels of different qualities and fuel with varying additives, this fuel hose may soften and loosen its grip at its connection to either the fuel pump or the fuel filter. If a leak occurs then the engine will experience a drop in fuel pressure with starting and running problems resulting. If this hose were to come off

completely, then there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure and the engine would stall.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

1. Loss of fuel pressure
2. Hard starting
3. Inconsistent Running
4. Stalling

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur. Hard starting, inconsistent running, stalling.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Bitron SpA
Strada del Portone
95-10095
Grugliasco
Torino, Italy

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Mr. Daniele Tedesco
Sales Manager

Mr. Alessandro Ferrero
Quality Control Manager

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

On 8/14/2007 Piaggio received an ODI Resume regarding the Aprilia Scarabeo 500 with reference to 12 consumer complaints from forum web postings. With respect for information resulting from PE 08-050 Aprilia, Italy contacted the fuel pump supplier for analysis and probable causes. The supplier determined the problem to be in the fuel hose that connects the fuel filter to the fuel pump. This fuel hose is a "push fit" installation on both the fuel pump and the fuel filter. Over time the friction of the fuel hose on the spigots may loosen through the effects of fuel of different levels of quality and content of additives allowed. The ODI resume, together with warranty claims and input

from dealers and technical representatives, prompted Aprilia to further investigate the situation and to initiate a recall on the vehicles within the affected VIN range.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined. NA

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The fuel hose in question connects the fuel pump to the fuel filter. Hose clamps will be installed to secure the existing fuel hose at both ends to the fuel pump and fuel filter.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Existing vehicles will be updated by the installation of hose clamps in the designated area. Vehicles manufactured from March 12, 2008 will include the fuel pump component with hose clamps installed.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Production remedy is identical to field remedy.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

1. Draft consumer and dealer notification to be submitted to NHTSA by Nov. 1
2. VIN range submitted to RL Polk for consumer name and address verification by or thereabouts Nov. 1, 2008
3. Consumer and dealer mailing to be completed by or thereabouts Nov. 17, 2008
4. PGA does not anticipate the use of specialty parts (hose clamps) in this recall so does not expect any delay regarding parts inventory.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: *This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.*