

2008 NOV 25 PM 2:16

November 20, 2008

Via Registered Mail

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

**08V-623**  
**(3 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. KMC submits this "Defect Report" to comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c).

- 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□8A005041	JKBZGNA1□8A013973
ZG1400B8F/B8FL	2008	JKBZGNB1□8A005008	JKBZGNB1□8A007582

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 4,628 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: Summary: Trapped road debris may interfere with free movement of the rear brake pedal, preventing full release of the rear brake which can lead to overheating damage and possible brake failure.

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

P. O. Box 25252  
Santa Ana, California  
92799-5252

949/770-0400  
Fax 949/460-5600  
www.kawasaki.com

9950 Jeronimo Road  
Irvine, California  
92618-2084

Detail: Due to the shape of the rear brake pedal, small stones or other road debris can become trapped between the brake pedal and the rear master cylinder actuating arm. This can prevent full release of the rear brake. Continuous activation of the rear brake can overheat the rear brake, potentially leading to rear brake damage and lock-up or failure of the rear brake.

- 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.

December 8, 2007 – KHI receives information from Kawasaki Motors Europe N.V. (“KME”) of 3 cases of rear brake overheating.

January – November, 2008 – KHI receives additional information from KME of a trapped stone causing the rear brake to drag/overheat on 2 occasions. KHI begins investigation and testing.

November 13, 2008 – KHI determines the need to take recall action and notifies KMC.

- 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 December 4, 2008. Kawasaki will notify all purchasers of the affected models using Kawasaki warranty records. Customer recall letters are expected to be mailed on December 8, 2008. KMC will reimburse customers that may have experienced this failure, if the failure was not already covered by the Kawasaki warranty.

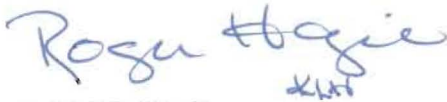
Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until December 8, 2008 the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the draft customer letter will be provided to NHTSA for review and approval as soon as it is available. Final copies of the dealer bulletin and customer letter will be provided to NHTSA once they have been finalized.

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Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Hagie". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the name "Hagie", there are small initials "R.F.H." written in a similar cursive hand.

Roger F. Hagie  
Director Public Affairs