



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 1, 2009

MR. DOUG STUHLSATZ
VICE PRESIDENT
BIG DOG MOTORCYCLES, L.L.C.
1520 EAST DOUGLAS AVENUE
WICHITA KS 67214

NVS-215dgl
09V-147

Subject: CRACKING SPOKES WHEEL

Dear MR. STUHLSATZ:

This letter serves to acknowledge Big Dog Motorcycles, L.L.C.'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 Federal law.

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:
BIGDOG/RIDGEBACK/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-147

Mfg's Report Date: April 27, 2009

Components: WHEELS: CENTER SECTION

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,257

Summary:

BIG DOG IS RECALLING 1,257 MY 2005 RIDGEBACK MOTORCYCLES. THE REAR WHEEL MAY HAVE WEAK SPOTS IN THE DESIGN, WHICH MAY CAUSE THE WHEEL TO CRACK UNDER CERTAIN OPERATING CONDITIONS.

Consequence:

IF UNDETECTED, THIS CONDITION MAY LEAD TO A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE WHEELS FOR EVIDENCE OF CRACKING. IF THE WHEEL EXHIBITS EVIDENCE OF CRACKING, BIG DOG WILL REPLACE THE WHEEL, AND IF THE WHEEL SHOWS NO SIGNS OF CRACKING, CUSTOMERS WILL BE ADVISED TO BRING THEIR MOTORCYCLE TO BIG DOG DEALER FOR A FREE INSPECTION EVERY 2,500 MILES. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MAY 15, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BIG DOG MOTORCYCLES CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 316-267-9121.

Notes:

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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.

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

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range [of vehicles equipment] affected by this recall.

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at 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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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