

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On December 19, 2008, Aprilia, Noale, Italy decided that a non compliance 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.

2008 and 2009 model year Aprilia Scarabeo 200 motor scooters

Date this report was prepared: January 20, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Code not yet issued.

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.

Pat Raymond
Director Aftersales
Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

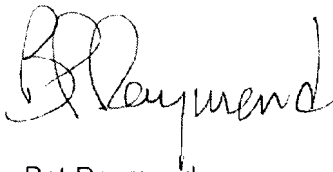
Telephone Number: (212) 380 4431

Fax No.: (212) 380 4458

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Pat Raymond
Director Aftersales
Piaggio Group America, Inc.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Raymond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Raymond
Director Aftersales

RECEIVED
2009 JANUARY 30 - 9:00 AM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall: Aprilia Scarabeo 200

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: 2008 and 2009

Model(s): Scarabeo 200

Production Dates: Beginning: 02/05/2008

Ending: 09/04/2008

VIN Range: Beginning: ZD4RBC0038

Ending: ZD4RBC0039

Vehicle Type: Motorcycle

Bodystyle: Motor scooter

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: Model year and VIN range.

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: Model Year Potentially Involved: 2008 and 2009 model year Aprilia Scarabeo 200 motor scooters within the identified VIN range.

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1,260

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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: The problems affecting the Scarabeo 200 model were noticed on the 2008 model year variant of the Scarabeo 200 model as manufactured and shipped from the Aprilia scooter factory in Italy. As such the recall population was defined as all 2008 and 2009 model year examples of this model between the production dates noted above. It has been confirmed that all elements of the solution are to be implemented starting with the next US specification production run of this model (2009 date to be determined).

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.

PGA was contacted about certain drivability issues including hard starting, poor performance and hesitation on this model. A variety of situations were found to contribute to these issues. These included the float level in the float bowl of the carburetor was not set correctly in production, dirt and the varnish residue of dried gasoline not allowing the float needle to seat correctly, and a blockage of the evaporative emission hoses that did not allow the float bowl to vent correctly. In short, these situations all produced the same result; the carburetor was not able to maintain correct or constant pressure in the float bowl. In consistent pressure in the float bowl would either push too much or not enough fuel to and through the jets for any one throttle position which does not allow the carburetor to correctly meter fuel to the engine.

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

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

Fuel flooding the engine, causing difficulty in starting and poor performance. It is also possible for fuel to leak from the carburetor onto the ground.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Difficult starting and poor performance.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address. There was no failure of a specific component that came to light in this investigation. It was found that a change to the routing of the hoses making up the evaporative emission system corrected the situation.

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

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.

Initial reports of hard starting, hesitation, inconsistent / poor performance were initially linked to raw fuel being allowed to enter the evaporative emissions hoses. This was seen to happen if the scooter was righted after a tip over or crash, or if the fuel tank was overfilled. Other input, from dealers and also from the Canadian importer addressed

situations where the carburetor's float level was set incorrectly; there was dirt and other residues in the carburetor. In each of these cases it was not possible for the carburetor to set and maintain a consistent fuel level and, as such, to properly meter fuel to the engine.

Ultimately the main cause of the carburetor not being able to maintain a consistent float level or meter fuel properly was linked to the "closed" emissions system where the float bowl was vented to the charcoal canister. Any type of blockage in the emissions system's hoses such as raw fuel in the system due to overfilling the fuel tank, a hose pinched during installation, etc., would vary the pressure inside the float bowl and, as a result, the metering of fuel to the engine.

Aprilia Italy modified the routing of the hoses in the evaporative emissions system, allowing the float bowl to vent to the atmosphere. This venting to the atmosphere allowed the pressure inside the float bowl to remain constant under all operating conditions. The constant pressure allowed the carburetor to work correctly and consistently, providing correctly metered fuel to the engine which, in turn, improved performance, eliminated stalling and hard starting. These modifications to the evaporative emissions system were approved by the EPA and CARB in mid December 2008. PGA wishes to initiate a voluntary recall to update all Scarabeo 200 models within the affected VIN range to ensure that the evaporative emissions system in use is the most current version and installation. Other aspects; incorrect float levels, dirt and contaminants in the carburetor and float bowl are inconsistent and are being addressed on a case by case basis.

For calendar year 2008, there were 156 warranty claims entered against 2008 and 2009 Scarabeo 200 models. Of these 156, 44 claims (28%) involved the fuel system to include replacement of the carburetor, carbon filter, needle valve and fuel pump. These 44 claims and VINs represent 3% of the total recall population.

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.

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 hoses of the evaporative emissions system were rerouted to eliminate the connection of the emissions system to the carburetor.

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

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. Regarding this point, PGA is waiting confirmation from Aprilia Italy if the production solution and the recall solution are the same or different and if so, how. This report will be updated once confirmed information is received.

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. Parts used in the relocation of the emissions hoses are in stock. Draft versions of the dealer and consumer notification will be submitted to NHTSA during the fourth week of January and will be sent to dealers and consumers by the end of February 2009.

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. "As mailed" examples of the dealer and consumer notifications will be provided to NHTSA directly after the actual mailing date.

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.