



Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

09V-059
(2 Pages)

February 4, 2009

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

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 - 2009 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 models were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors Enterprise (Thailand) (KMT) and imported to the U.S. by KMC, which will be responsible for conduct of this recall campaign.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The affected models are model year 2008 and 2009 KL650E. Some of the 2008 models covered by this Defect Report were included in a previous recall (07V-486) that also addressed loosening of the muffler mount bolts. They will be eligible for this repair even if they were repaired under the previous recall.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: Approximately 16,500 units are potentially affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: Unknown, but 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: The muffler assembly is secured to the frame of the motorcycle by two bolts. It is possible that heat expansion cycles of the muffler, combined with vibration from vehicle operation may cause loosening of the muffler mounting bolts. If the bolts loosen completely, it is possible for the muffler to separate from the motorcycle, creating a risk to motor vehicle safety. The previous recall covered two model types, the "A" model produced from 2002 through 2007, and the "E" model, produced beginning as a 2008 model. There are notable differences in material specification in the muffler between the "A" and "E" models, and thus this current effort is directed at the "E" models.

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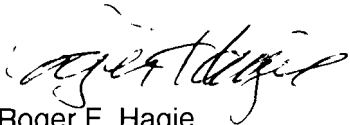
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- 6) A chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information with their dates of receipt: This information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: This information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 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 send a Recall Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. The target date for this bulletin is February 20, 2009. KMC will send a Recall Letter to every owner of the affected models, based on KMC warranty records. Target date for this mailing is February 23, 2009. A copy of the proposed customer letter will be provided shortly 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. Copies of the Recall bulletin and final version of the customer letter will be provided in a subsequent report.

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