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2009 MAY -1 A 10:49
April 27, 2009

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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

via FAX and Regular Mail

RE: Notice of Defect in Accordance with the Requirements of 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith:

Big Dog Motorcycles, L.L.C. (Big Dog Motorcycles) has decided to conduct a voluntary recall of model year 2005 Ridgeback model motorcycles to inspect and correct a defect in the rear wheels installed on these models. The following information is submitted in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

Vehicle Identification

The motorcycles involved in this campaign are all 2005 Ridgeback models (1,257 motorcycles). These motorcycles were equipped with rear wheels manufactured by the supplier named below.

Component Supplier

The wheels, which are the subject of this recall campaign, were manufactured by:

R.C. Components
373 Mitch McConnell Way
Bowling Green, KY 42104
Phone: (270) 842-6000
Fax: (270) 842-9527

Vehicles Potentially Containing Defect

Big Dog Motorcycles is recalling the entire population (1,257 motorcycles) of its 2005 Ridgeback model motorcycle with the subject wheels.

Description of Defect

The rear wheel may have weak spots in the design, which may cause the wheel to crack under certain operating conditions. If undetected, this condition may lead to a crash. Big Dog Motorcycles has no reports of any accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Chronology of Events

During the fall of 2008, Big Dog Motorcycles received reports of cracking on one of the spokes of the rear wheels of Ridgeback model motorcycles. Big Dog Motorcycles investigated these reports and, as a result of this investigation, determined that certain areas of the subject wheel may be weak and susceptible to cracking under certain operating conditions. Accordingly, Big Dog Motorcycles' management has decided to conduct an inspection and replacement campaign to address this issue.

Remedy Program

Big Dog Motorcycles is implementing an inspection and replacement campaign for the subject wheels. Customers will be advised to bring their motorcycles to a Big Dog Motorcycles dealer and service center, which will inspect the wheels for evidence of cracking. If the wheel exhibits evidence of cracking, Big Dog Motorcycles will replace the wheel at no charge. If the wheel shows no signs of cracking, customers will be advised to bring their motorcycle to a Big Dog Motorcycles dealer for a free inspection every 2,500 miles. Attached is a copy of Big Dog Motorcycles' customer letter, as required by 49 CFR Part 577. A copy of Big Dog Motorcycles' dealer letter and the wheel inspection and replacement instructions related to this recall campaign will be provided in a supplemental notification to NHTSA.

Big Dog Motorcycles is prepared to send out the notification letters to owners on or about May 15, 2009.

Reimbursement Program

Owners who have incurred expenses to remedy the defect that is the subject of this notice will be advised that they may be eligible for reimbursement by Big Dog Motorcycles for some or all of these expenses. These owners will be informed that they can contact Big Dog Motorcycles Customer Service Department collect at 316-267-9121 for full details of the program, its coverage and limitations.

Please advise the undersigned or in the alternative, Traci Girrens at 316-219-6564; or fax: 316-219-6664 of the NHTSA campaign number assigned to this recall.

Sincerely,



Doug Stuhlsatz
Vice President

Big Dog Motorcycles, L.L.C.
Direct Phone: 316-219-7006
Direct Fax: 316-219-7106

cc: Mr. George H. Person
NHTSA Recall Management Division
By facsimile: (202) 366-7882



May 15, 2009

«FirstName» «LastName» «Proj_»
«Address»
«City», «ST» «Zip»

**Re: Safety Recall Notice; Campaign No. _____;
Big Dog Motorcycles' Wheel Remedy**

Dear Motorcycle Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Big Dog Motorcycles, L.L.C. (Big Dog Motorcycles) has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in the rear wheel on its 2005 Ridgeback model production motorcycles. This wheel is susceptible to cracking on one of the spokes of the design. This condition can occur without prior warning and may lead to a crash.

According to our records, you are the registered owner of a 2005 Big Dog Motorcycles Ridgeback with VIN «VIN». one of the motorcycles subject to this recall. If you have received this notice and are not the owner of the above-mentioned motorcycle, please contact the Big Dog Motorcycles Customer Service Department at 316-267-9121 immediately. Federal regulations require any lessor receiving this letter to forward it to the lessee within 10 days.

What You Should Do

Contact your Big Dog Motorcycles dealer or service center to arrange to have your motorcycle inspected and, if needed, updated with the new rear wheel. There will be no charge to you.

What We Will Do

Your dealer or service center will inspect your motorcycle to determine if it is subject to this recall and inspect it for any cracks. If the wheel shows signs of cracking then they will immediately install a new wheel. If the wheel shows no signs of cracking then you will need to have it inspected every 2,500 miles. Your dealer will be able to advise you of the exact turnaround time based on scheduling and any other factors that may exist.

If you are not able to obtain the necessary service on your motorcycle, please contact the Big Dog Motorcycles Customer Service Department and we will assist you. The address and telephone number is:

1520 E. Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67214
Telephone: 316.267.9121
Fax: 316.219.9129
E-mail: customer.service@bigdogmotorcycles.com

If your dealer or Big Dog Motorcycles fails or is unable to remedy your motorcycle without charge within a reasonable time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We appreciate your cooperation and prompt attention to this important matter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you, and we assure you that we have taken this step as one that is important to your personal safety.

We appreciate your business and want to insure your continued satisfaction with Big Dog Motorcycles' products.

Sincerely,

BIG DOG MOTORCYCLES, LLC