

\* WWW.BIGDOGMOTORCYCLES COM \*

09V-147 (2 Pages)

April 27, 2009 (Amended May 13, 2009)

via FAX and Regular Mail

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

# RE: AMENDED NOTICE OF DEFECT in Accordance with the Requirements of 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith:

This amended notice of defect contains a revised remedy program. As previously submitted, 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 a replacement campaign to address this issue.

### Remedy Program

Big Dog Motorcycles' dealers and service centers will replace the wheels on all motorcycles that are members of the subject population. 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 29, 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 Stuhlsate 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