

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On April 8, 2009 Aprilia, Noale, Italy decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety 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.

Date this report was prepared: 05/20/09

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): N/A

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.

Telephone Number: 212 380 4418

Fax No.: 212 380 4458

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Jessica Burke
Aftersales Administrator & Compliance Reporting
Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

Signed:

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NHTSA OFFICE OF SAFETY
COMPLIANCE

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall: Piaggio BV 500 & X9

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): Piaggio **Model Years Involved:** 2005, 2006, 2007, & 2008

Model(s): BV 500: specific VINs within model years 2006,2007, & 2008
 X9: specific VINs within model years 2005, 2006, & 2007

Production Dates:

	Beginning:	Ending:
BV500	11/24/2004	11/21/2007
X9500	02/16/2005	06/25/2007

VIN Range:

	Beginning:	Ending:
BV500	ZAPM340W065001003	ZAPM340W985100051
X9500	ZAPM270W055001358	ZAPM270W775002185

Vehicle Type: MC

Bodystyle: MC/Scooter

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: production date and individual VIN.

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:	BV500	1581
	X9500	847
	Total:	2428

Model Year Potentially Involved:

BV500: specific VINs with model years 2006, 2007 & 2008

X9: specific VINs within model years 2005, 2006, & 2007

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: see above

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:

VIN range and production date of affected vehicles was provided by Piaggio Italy to PGA and sorted by model and model year. The solution for the BV500 was introduced into production on 05/15/2008. The X9 500 is no longer in production.

Piaggio Italy has identified the motor scooter production date range, for US specification models, and the time during which the fuel pump assembly in question was used in production. On this fuel pump assembly, the length of fuel hose connecting the fuel pump to the fuel filter was assembled with a "push fit". Subsequent use of the scooter, together with the affects of fuel of different levels of quality and content of additives allowed the fuel hose to loosen and in some cases come off of the fitting on either the fuel pump or the fuel filter.

The fuel pump component manufacturer added hose clamps to secure the fuel hose connection to the fuel pump and the fuel filter. These components have been used in series production on the BV 500 since 05/15/2008. The X9 500 is no longer in production.

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.

The concern of this recall is centered on the possibility that the fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump may come loose. If this fuel hose connection is loose, or has become completely disconnected, then there will be a drop in, or loss of, fuel pressure to the engine. With a loose connection, the rider may experience difficulty in starting the motorcycle or experience a rough running engine while operating the motorcycle. If, in the worst case, this connection comes completely loose, allowing the fuel filter to become completely disconnected from the fuel pump, there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure to the engine and the engine would stall as a result. As the fuel pump/fuel filter component is located inside the fuel tank of the subject scooter, there is no visible indication of a problem or potential problem. It is only through the drop in/loss of fuel pressure and the subsequent operational problems experienced that the problem is communicated to the rider.

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

The fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump was installed with a “push fit” only, using the friction of the hose to the mounting spigot as the only method of securing the hose in these locations. With the affects of fuels of different qualities and fuel with varying additives, this fuel hose may soften and loosen its grip at its connection to either the fuel pump or the fuel filter. If a leak occurs then the engine will experience a drop in fuel pressure with starting and running problems resulting. If this hose were to come off completely, then there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure and the engine would stall.

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

1. Loss of fuel pressure
2. Hard starting
3. Inconsistent Running
4. Stalling

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur. Hard starting, inconsistent running, stalling.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Bitron SpA
Strada del Portone
95-10095
Grugliasco
Torino, Italy

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

Mr. Daniele Tedesco
Sales Manager

Mr. Alessandro Ferrero
Quality Control Manager

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.

In the fall of 2008 PGA started the process to initiate a recall on the Aprilia Scarabeo 500 model. The Aprilia brand is a brand represented by Piaggio Group Americas, Inc. This recall involved replacing and securing the fuel hose connecting the fuel pump to the fuel filter. During the preparation of this recall, a question came up on the use of the same fuel pump/fuel filter component in other brands and models within the Piaggio product line up. It was thought that perhaps the Piaggio models BV 500 and X9 500 used the same component and inquiries were started with Piaggio & C in Italy to confirm the use of common parts.

On 02/04/2009 Piaggio & C confirmed that these models did indeed use many of the same fuel system components, including the fuel pump / fuel filter combination. As recall 08V-522 was issued to cover possible issues with the Scarabeo 500, PGA sought to initiate a recall for the Piaggio BV 500 and X9 500 to address potential problems that may arise with a similar loss of fuel pressure in these models. On April 8, 2009 Piaggio Italy agreed that a recall on the BV500 and X9 500 would be necessary.

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. N/A

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 fuel hose in question connects the fuel pump to the fuel filter. The length of fuel hose connecting the fuel pump to the fuel filter will be replaced and hose clamps will be installed to secure the new fuel hose at both ends to the fuel pump and fuel filter.

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

There are no differences to the components, rather the addition of two (2) hose clamps to secure the fuel hose to both the fuel filter and to the fuel pump. A length of fuel hose is included in the recall parts kit and its installation is included in the work required of this recall. This added part is to ensure that a replacement hose is available in the case that the original fuel hose has become damaged or worn.

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.

The same remedy was used in subsequent production of the fuel pump/fuel filter component as is being applied in the recall.

The Piaggio X9 500 model is no longer in production, so all updates will be completed on vehicles already in use.

The Piaggio BV 500 was updated as of production date 05/15/2008.

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.

Aprilia Italy is working with the component supplier to provide two (2) recall parts kits; one for the BV 500 and the other for the X9 500. The difference in the two part kits is the length of the included fuel hose, as this length differs between the two models. These two parts kits are on order from the supplier.

Draft consumer and dealer notification are anticipated to be submitted to NHTSA by May 29, 2009. Mailings to dealer and consumers are anticipated to be completed by June 15, 2009. NHTSA will be notified upon confirmation of completion.

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.*

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.