

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juniper Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1117/312-1680

May 27, 2009

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter
Director of Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

The following information is submitted in accordance with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR Part 573.6.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect affecting motor vehicle safety exists on certain model year 2008 and 2009 FLSTSB, model year 2008 FXSTSSE2 and model year 2009 FXSTSSE3 motorcycles.

IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:

This recall involves 11,005 model year 2008 and 2009 FLSTSB, model year 2008 FXSTSSE2 and model year 2009 FXSTSSE3 motorcycles manufactured May 22, 2007 through March 26, 2009 and shipped on or before March 27, 2009. This recall covers the subject motorcycle population in its entirety.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:

The population of motorcycles described above has an acorn stud at the brake reaction link that may fall out during use. If this occurs, the front brake and fender assembly would no longer be adequately retained. This condition could lead to a crash which could cause injury or death to the rider.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

Upon receiving a report of a crash that allegedly involved the front brake link fastener disengaging on a customer's motorcycle, on November 21, 2008 Harley-Davidson's Recall Investigation Committee (RIC) initiated an investigation into the issue. The reported crash involved minor injuries (i.e., sprained finger and damage to customer's jacket).

A search of available warranty and customer complaint data revealed three additional reports involving a similar issue, i.e., one warranty claim (involving an alleged crash with no injuries) and two customer complaints (each involving an alleged crash and injury) involving issues that appeared to be similar.

In December 2008, Harley-Davidson technical staff travelled to a Harley-Davidson dealership in Arkansas to conduct an inspection of the motorcycle involved in the first incident noted above. This inspection identified a component as possibly being the cause of the failure. The part was returned to the supplier for analysis. This analysis suggested that while this part may have been a contributor to the failure, it was not the causal part.

In the subsequent months, Harley-Davidson conducted further technical analysis and evaluation of five company-owned exemplar vehicles to gain a better understanding of the issue. Harley-Davidson also inspected parts from another motorcycle, located in Colorado, that experienced this condition. As part of this evaluation, Harley-Davidson performed a laboratory analysis of various parts.

During the course of this investigation, Harley-Davidson received one additional dealer contact (involving a crash with no injuries) related to this issue.

On May 19, upon review of the results of the Recall Investigation Committee's investigation and analysis, Harley-Davidson's executive management made its determination that a safety related defect existed in the subject population of vehicles.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:

The remedy for this defect is to replace the existing acorn stud with the new acorn stud and retaining clip provided in the recall repair kit.

SUPPLIER INFORMATION:

Not Applicable

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR COMPANY PRE-NOTIFICATION REMEDY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:

Harley-Davidson Motor Company incorporates by reference herein the general reimbursement plan it has previously provided to NHTSA for reimbursing customers for remedy costs incurred prior to notification of this recall.

DEALER AND OWNER NOTIFICATION:

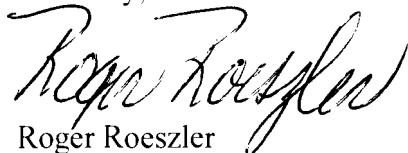
Harley-Davidson expects to notify its dealer network on or before the week of June 1, 2009 and the motorcycle owners on or before the week of June 8, 2009.

PART 577 NOTICE LETTER:

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned by ODI to this recall.

Sincerely,



Roger Roeszler
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.
0139