

November 24, 2009



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 2009 and 2010 model year Kawasaki motorcycles. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information to comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c).

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The affected vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors 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: This recall affects 2009 and 2010 models of the Kawasaki EX250 ("Ninja 250"). Model and VIN information are provided below.
Models 2009: EX250J9F
EX250J9FA
EX250J9FL
EX250J9FAL
2010: EX250JAF
EX250JAFA
EX250JAFL
EX250JAFAL
VIN Range: JKAEXMJ159DA48483 through JKAEXMJ18ADA57182
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 259 units are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: KMC's goal will be to inspect 100% of the affected vehicles, while performing repairs only on the small (estimated 3%) number of vehicles that will actually require repair.
- 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: Summary - Porosity in the engine case could allow engine oil to leak, and be deposited on the rear tire. Description - A small number of upper engine cases for the affected model could have porosity in the aluminum casting. This porosity occurs in the vicinity of a pressurized oil passage just above the transmission output shaft. Engine oil leaking from this location can be deposited on the rear tire, creating the risk of a crash.

- 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:
- 10-16-2009 - Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. (KHI) receives a complaint from the Japanese market of an oil leak from a 2010 MY EX250 and requests KMT to investigate.
- 10-19-2009 - PT. Kawasaki Motor Indonesia (KMI) advises KMT that 4 cases of oil leaks have been reported in Indonesia.
- 10-28-2009 - KMT receives suspect engine cases from KMI and confirms the leak with the apparatus used to check engine cases for leaks. This testing reveals that the test apparatus had previously been malfunctioning due to a maintenance error.
- 11-12-2009 - KHI begins its confirmation testing of the engine cases from the unit from the Japanese market.
- 11-18 -2009 - KHI testing confirms that oil leakage from the engine cases can be deposited on the rear tire. KHI advises KMC that it plans to initiate recall action.
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: See above.
- 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 (by mail and electronic transmission) a Recall Service Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. KMC will also send a letter to all warranty registered owners of the affected models. KMC anticipates sending these letters on or about December 8, 2009. Repair will consist of inspection by means of pressurizing the crankcase with air, and checking for leaks in the vicinity of the suspected porosity. Units evidencing signs of leakage will be repaired by application of a special sealant epoxy. KMC will advise owners that they may seek reimbursement of the costs of repair if they have previously paid for repair of this problem.
- Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until December 8, 2009, the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealers will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.
- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the Customer Recall letter will be provided to NHTSA for review and approval. Copies of the Dealer Bulletin and final Customer Letter will be provided when available.

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