

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

On January 20, 2010, Aprilia, 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: January 25, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Code not yet issued.

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 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall. Pat Raymond, Director Aftersales, Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

Telephone Number: (212) 380 4431

Fax No.: (212) 380 4458

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report. Pat Raymond, Director Aftersales, Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

Signed: 

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall:** Certain 2010 model year Aprilia RSV4 "Factory" and Aprilia RSV 4 "R" models.

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): Aprilia      Model Years Involved: 2010      Model(s): RSV 4 "Factory" and RSV 4 "R"

Production Dates:

RSV 4 "Factory"      Beginning: 07/02/2009      Ending: 10/30/2009

RSV 4 "R"      Beginning: 07/02/2009      Ending: 10/30/2009

VIN Range:

RSV 4 "Factory"      Beginning: ZD4RKC004AS000001      Ending: ZD4RKC00XAS000164

RSV 4 "R"      Beginning: ZD4RKC013AS000001      Ending: ZD4RKC014AS000220

Vehicle Type: Motorcycle

Body style: Motorcycle

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:** 100% of US specification RSV4 "Factory" and "R" models produced 7/2/2009 through 10/30/2009 are included in this recall.

**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:** 335

**Model Year Potentially Involved:** 2010

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 335

**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:** The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range of affected vehicles includes all US specification Aprilia RSV4 "Factory" and "R" models.

## **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.** During experimental testing on RSV4 engines, Aprilia identified a batch of connecting rods that due to an unauthorized process used in their production, do not meet quality standards. This batch of connecting rods was immediately intercepted and removed from the engine production line. However, some of these substandard components were used in the production of a limited number of RSV4 vehicles worldwide. However, the VIN range of affected vehicles includes all US specification RSV4s.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** In manufacturing the connecting rod, a process was used by the vendor to straighten the rod in order to meet specifications. This process introduced stresses into the component which greatly affected its strength and reliability.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** As the structural reliability of the component is affected, an engine failure may occur. Under certain circumstances such an engine failure could result in a rider losing control of his/her motorcycle, resulting in a crash, personal injury or death.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.** An increase in mechanical noise, increase in vibration, and a sudden decrease in engine performance will be experienced as a result of the component failure.

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

Manufacturer: SCAM  
Via Fratelli Rosselli 27 - 20027 Rescaldina (MI)  
Tel +39 0331 464890

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:** Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Davide Alloni (e-mail: [davide.alloni@scam-srl.it](mailto:davide.alloni@scam-srl.it))

#### **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.**

27 October, 2009: Piaggio & C discovered the problem (press presentation at Mugello circuit-5 engine failures) and activated root cause identification analysis.

18 January, 2010: Piaggio & C concluded the investigation relating to the affected production batch of connecting rods and identified the portion of the vehicle fleet potentially affected.

20 January, 2010: Piaggio & C notified Piaggio Group Americas, Inc. of the details of the recall, VIN range, replacement parts delivery schedule, etc.

**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.** Aprilia Italy Initiated additional research and quality checks at the vendor level.

The owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an Aprilia authorized dealer, qualified to work on the RSV models, who will replace the engine free of charge.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.** Replacement engines produced with components that passed Aprilia quality inspection.

**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.** Engines produced with approved connecting rods have been used in all RSV 4 production from November 1, 2009.

## 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.** Replacement engines are currently being air freighted to Aprilia USA to initiate this recall. Additional quantities of replacement engines will be shipped by air and sea freight. The first air shipment will contain an adequate number of replacement engines to update all RSV4s currently in customer hands. The following shipments of replacement engines are to be used to update inventory of these models that are in dealer stock and in Aprilia warehouse stock. The first shipment of replacement engines is expected to arrive in our US warehouses by Monday, February 1, 2010.

Piaggio Group Americas first received notification of a possible defect and/or noncompliant conformity from Piaggio & C headquarters in Italy on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Starting Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> each retail customer was contacted by telephone to inform them of the details of the recall, to advise the owner not to ride the motorcycle, to update them on the status of the parts involved, and to identify the appropriate dealer for completion of the recall. Following the telephone communication with each owner, an official written notification (to be approved by NHTSA) will be mailed to officially notify them of the recall.

The draft of the consumer notification letter will be provided to NHTSA for approval by February 1, 2010 as will a DRAFT of the dealer notification.

- Date of initial e-mail notification to dealers: 01/21/2010
- The estimated date to provide service bulletin to dealers: 02/15/2010
- The estimated date to complete sending notifications to owners: 02/28/2010

## 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.**

Copies of these notices, bulletins, and communications will be provided

**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.*