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(3 pages)



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/342-4680

July 19, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

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 2010 FXDF motorcycles with Fork Leg Assemblies (LH P/N 48622-08, RH P/N 48623-08) built 1/29/10 through 2/9/10.

**IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:**

This recall involves 70 model year 2010 FXDF motorcycles with Fork Leg Assemblies (LH P/N 48622-08, RH P/N 48623-08) built 1/29/10 through 2/9/10. This recall covers the subject motorcycle population in its entirety.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

The motorcycles in the population described above have Fork Leg Assemblies that may have been incorrectly assembled at the supplier with FXDWG Springs (P/N 46620-06) instead of FXDF Springs (48741-08). The motorcycles with assemblies containing the wrong spring will have reduced suspension effectiveness which may result in reduced traction on irregular road surfaces, and will also have a different lean angle when parked on the side stand, possibly affecting parking stability. This condition may increase the risk of a crash.

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:**

On 2/8/10, assembly operators moving model year 2010 FXDF bikes around the Kansas City assembly plant perceived that the front suspensions on some of these vehicles felt uncharacteristically soft. This issue was reported to the Harley-Davidson Recall Investigation Committee (RIC) on 2/12/10 and the RIC initiated an investigation and analysis of this issue.

Complete fork leg assemblies (LH P/N 48622-08, RH P/N 48623-08) were removed from vehicles and returned to the supplier (American Showa Inc.) for analysis. The supplier determined that while assembling these parts for Harley-Davidson on 1/22/10, they had

comingled stock of 2 different springs, and that some fork leg assemblies could therefore have been built with the incorrect spring.

At that time, a search of existing warranty data disclosed that we had no claims that appeared to be related to this issue. A search of existing customer complaint data also disclosed no related complaints.

In March 2010, representatives of Harley-Davidson's Ride & Handling group and the RIC performed test riding of an exemplar FXDF vehicle equipped with the correct springs, as well as with the incorrect springs, in order to do a subjective evaluation of the effect on vehicle performance. In May 2010, full vehicle testing was performed with both sets of springs in order to evaluate stopping distances (per FMVSS 122), side stand retraction (per SAE J1579) and parking stability (per SAE J1248).

As this investigation and analysis was being completed we continued to monitor warranty claims and customer contacts. In May 2010, we received both a warranty claim and a contact from a dealer regarding a bike that appeared to have this issue. The complaint was of ride quality, and it did not involve a crash or any injury.

On 7/12/10, upon review of the results of the RIC's investigation and analysis, Harley-Davidson's executive management made its determination that a safety related defect existed in the subject population and declared a recall to remedy the issue.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:**

Dealers will inspect the subject motorcycles. For those determined to be assembled with an incorrect spring, dealers will replace the Fork Leg Assemblies with a properly assembled part.

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION:**

American Showa Inc.  
707 West Cherry St.  
Sunbury OH 43074  
Mr. Jim Wiebe  
Executive VP  
(740) 965-7395

**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 July 19, 2010 and the motorcycle owners on or before the week of July 26, 2010.

**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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Roeszler".

Roger Roeszler  
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.  
0143