

October 14, 2010

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 VN1700 "Vulcan" Motorcycles. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information immediately available. Additional information needed to fully comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c) will be submitted in a subsequent report.

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Akashi, Japan, and imported to the United States by KMC, which will assume responsibility for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: The information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For purposes of this recall 100% of the vehicles will be assumed to contain the defect.
- 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: Brief - Engine Stalling. Detail - The engine may stall if the rider is coasting with the clutch pulled in due to an improper setting of the engine control unit ("ECU"). This could create the possibility of an accident, resulting in injury or death.
- 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:

April 14, 2010 – KHI received information from KMC that the engine might stall if the rider is coasting with the clutch disengaged.

May 26, 2010 – KHI begins investigating the cause and corrective measures for the problem.

August 27, 2010 – KHI determines corrective measure is to change ECU program.

October 7, 2010 – KHI notifies KMC of recall decision.

- 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 distribute both electronic and paper copies of a Recall Bulletin to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. Target date for distribution is October 21 (electronic) and October 22 (mail). The recall repair will consist of replacing the ECU with one containing revised settings to address the engine stalling.

KMC will advise customers that they may seek reimbursement if they obtained ECU replacement outside of warranty.
- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A draft copy of the customer letter will be provided to NHTSA for review and approval as soon as it is available. Final copies of the customer letter and bulletin will be provided once they become 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