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September 26, 2011

Chief Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W46-421
Washington, DC 20590

Regarding: 2009 ~ 2011 Model Year Yamaha VMX17YB, YCB, ZR, ZCR AG & ACG (VMAX) model s
Oil Pump Replacement, Factory Modification Campaign

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide preliminary information required by 49 CFR 573 and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act regarding a defect notification campaign we are initiating. Attached are draft copies of the Owner's notification letter, for Agency review and approval, and the dealer technical bulletin. The envelope format has previously been approved by the Agency for prior campaigns.

1.

Manufacturers Name:	Yamaha Motor Company, Ltd. 2500 Shingai Iwata, Japan
Imported Vehicle Distributor:	Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. 6555 Katella Avenue Cypress, California 90630
2.

Vehicles Affected:	Make: Yamaha Model: 2009 ~ 2011 Model Year VMX17YB, YCB, ZR, ZCR AG & ACG Motorcycles
Nominal Engine Displacement:	VMX17 is 1,700cc
Production Period:	09/2008 – 04/2011
3. The campaign relates to the motorcycle’s engine oil pump.
4. Total number of subject vehicles: Current estimate: 2,300 units. This will be updated in a supplemental report as we finalize the affected VIN range.

5. VIN Range: See tentative range in draft Technical Bulletin attached. Likewise this will be updated in a subsequent report as data is confirmed.
6. The campaign involves the replacement of the engine oil pump. In affected motorcycles, abnormally high oil pressure can build up inside the oil pump. This pressure can force the thrust washer on the oil pump shaft against the oil pump housing, causing a malfunction. If this happens, oil will stop pumping through the engine, resulting in severe engine damage. Please refer to the draft Technical Bulletin which will be furnished to the Agency and Yamaha dealers upon completion describing the situation which is the subject of the campaign.
7. On September 17, 2011, Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. was informed by the manufacturer, Yamaha Motor Company, Ltd., that such a situation exists. This was determined pursuant to a quality control review, testing and a review of foreign models that use a substantially similarly part design.

We anticipate commencing dealer/owner notification shortly after the owner's notification letter is approved by NHTSA, the affected VIN range is ascertained and the Technical Bulletin service procedure is confirmed by Yamaha service staff. Assuming the Agency can approve the letter within 5 days of receipt (perhaps September 30) we will have the letter and Technical Bulletin printed. Normal turn-around time is 3 working days for such printing. Hence the materials will be ready for mailing approximately October 6th. Final copies of these notification documents will be forwarded to the Agency as soon as possible.

In the event we can answer any questions or provide supplemental information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct telephone number is 714-761-7842. The fax number is 714-229-7944. My email is brad_franklin@yamaha-motor.com.

Sincerely,

Brad Franklin

Brad Franklin
Manager, Government Relations

BRF/lf

cc: By Fed Ex and E-Mail
Defects & Recall Information Analysis Division
Ms. Kelly Schuler (via email)
Mr. Robert Young (via email)