



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

11V-506  
(3 Pages)

October 19, 2011

Claude H. Harris  
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Harris:

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 all M.Y. 2009 through M.Y. 2011 Touring, CVO Touring and Trike vehicles, and certain M.Y. 2012 Touring, CVO Touring and Trike vehicles.

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

This recall involves 250,757 model year 2009 through 2012 Touring, CVO Touring and Trike vehicles, built 6/6/08 through 9/16/11. Touring, Touring CVO, and Trike Models included in the recall population are as follows:

FLHR	FLHRC	FLHT
FLHTC	FLHTCU	FLHTK
FLHX	FLTR	FLTRX
FLTRU	FLHTP	FLHP
FLHPE	FLHTCUSE4	FLHTCUSE5
FLHTCUSE6	FLHTCUSE7	FLHXSE
FLHXSE2	FLHXSE3	FLTRSE3
FLTRUSE	FLTRXSE	FLHTCUTG
FLHXXX		

This recall covers the subject motorcycle population in its entirety.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

The rear brake light switch, P/N 72016-06, installed on the subject motorcycles may be exposed to temperatures that can degrade its performance under certain riding conditions. This condition may affect brake lamp function and/or cause a brake fluid leak through the rear brake switch, affecting rear brake performance. Either condition may increase the risk of a crash.

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:**

The Harley-Davidson Recall Investigation Committee (RIC) was made aware of this issue on 6/14/2010 via a field report of a Trike Model motorcycle with lost rear brake functionality due to a loss of brake fluid. The RIC initiated an investigation and analysis of this issue.

On 7/20/2010, Harley-Davidson technical staff traveled to a Harley-Davidson dealership in Louisiana to inspect another vehicle which represents the only alleged crash associated with this issue of which we are currently aware.

During the initial months of our investigation, our analysis focused on switch performance issues caused by what we believed to be excessive heat coming from the catalytic converter in the exhaust system on motorcycles that may have had fuel monitoring issues.

In the following months, field returned parts were collected and shipped to our brake switch supplier in Italy for analysis. During this time, we also performed extensive full-vehicle testing and data acquisition in order to better understand the current temperature environment in the area of the rear brake switch on these vehicles.

As additional analysis was performed, it was determined that the proximity of the rear brake switch to the new-for-2009 exhaust system, under normal conditions, may induce heat into the brake switch beyond its temperature design limit. This exhaust system was a new configuration introduced in model year 2009 FL touring family motorcycles, which put a portion of the exhaust in close proximity to the rear brake switch.

On October 12, 2011, upon review of the results of the Recall Investigation Committee'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. We note that there have been no additional reported incidents related to this condition since the July 20, 2010 incident referenced above.

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

Authorized Harley-Davidson dealers will determine whether the motorcycle is covered by this recall and, if covered, they will replace the rear brake light switch using kit number 91500011, at no charge to the customer.

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION:**

Bitron S.p.A. – Unita di Savona  
Via Rio Galletto, 1  
17100 Savona Italy  
Mr. Daniele Tedesco  
Product Manager  
39-019-2302611

**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:**

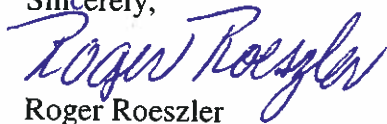
Harley-Davidson expects to notify its dealer network on or before the week of October 24, 2011 and the motorcycle owners on or before the week of October 31, 2011.

**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,



Roger Roeszler  
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.  
Recall 0145

Enclosure (Draft Part 577 Owner Letter)