

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹**Second Amendment**

In a letter dated December 18, 2009, and in a subsequent undated letter received in early January 2012, Wildfire Motors was made aware by NHTSA that potential noncompliances which relate to motor vehicle safety exist in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: January 30, 2012 & Revised February 3, 2012 & February 20, 2012

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): None

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.

The current designated agent for service of process is Wildfire Motors, 11 Technology Way, Steubenville, Ohio 43952

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Don Snyder, President of Wildfire Motors

Telephone Number: 740-283-6540 ext.103 **Fax No.:** 740-283-6541

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Alan Tipton
General Manager

Signed:



¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

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): Wildfire **Model Years Involved:** 2009 **Model(s):** WF650-C

Production Dates: Beginning: April 2008 **Ending:** January 2009

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: Motorcycle **Bodystyle:** 3-Wheel, 4 Seat Enclosed Cab

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

All of the 200 units that Wildfire Motors imported will be included in Wildfire's recall.

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the 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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

Wildfire Motors would not have any knowledge or information with regards to the China manufacturer's production data.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
WF650-C	2009	200

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 200

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Less than 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 represents the total number of model WF650-C that Wildfire imported.

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.
The WF650-C motorcycle has a split-service brake system with two circuits, but only a single reservoir with a single filler opening, lack of a brake fluid warning statement affixed, engraved or embossed on or near the reservoir filler cap, no failure indicator lamps for brake failures and the service brakes fail to stop the motorcycle from 30 m.p.h. within a stopping distance not exceeding 54 feet as prescribed under FMVSS No. 122.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Our engineers in China didn't monitor the production at the China factory as close as they should have.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Without the required brake reservoir label, operators may improperly maintain the brake system. With only a single brake fluid reservoir for the entire brake system and no brake failure indicator lamp, in the event of any brake fluid leak, the entire brake system could fail without warning, increasing the risk of a crash. Failure of the service brakes to stop the motorcycle from 30 m.p.h. within a stopping distance not exceeding 54 feet increases the risk of a crash.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

None.

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

Wildfire Motors would not know the corporate name or address of the supplier the China manufacturer purchased the brake components or assemblies from.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

See answer above.

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.

See answer to #5 above. Aside from this, Wildfire has received no notifications of reports, accidents, injuries or warranty claims with respect to the brakes on the WF650-C.

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.

Wildfire was made aware of the noncompliances by NHTSA.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Wildfire Motors will repair each WF650-C by replacing, at Wildfire Motors expense, the single reservoir with dual reservoirs each having its own filler cap containing the proper brake fluid warning statement as well as adding a brake failure indicator lamp in the dash to alert the operator of either a front or rear brake failure or low brake fluid level and replace the front and rear brake shoes with improved friction front and rear brake shoes to ensure the brakes on the WF650-C meet all of the stopping requirements prescribed under FMVSS 122. Wildfire Motors will test the service brakes of each motorcycle to ensure each stop within the DOT prescribed distances.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

See answer to #8 above.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

See answer to #8 above.

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.

This model was imported from China manufacturer more than 2 years ago and has since been discontinued.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

Wildfire Motors will send out notifications to all purchasers of the Wildfire WF650-C as soon as the replacement parts arrive from China and are available for the replacement which is expected to be in approximately 8 weeks.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. **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) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.**

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.