



Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

March 1, 2012

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 2012 model year Ninja® 250R, Ninja® 650, and VERSYS® 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 in question were manufactured by Kawasaki Motors Enterprise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (KMT), and imported to the U.S. by KMC, which will be responsible for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: Potentially affected vehicles are the 2012 model year Ninja 250R, Ninja 650 and VERSYS (EX250JCF/A/AL/L, EX650ECF/L, KLE650CCF/L). The beginning and ending manufacturing dates are: September 13, 2011 to October 25, 2011.

Model	Beginning Vin	Ending Vin
EX250JCF		
EX250JCFA		
EX250JCFAL		
EX250JCFL		
EX650ECF		
EX650ECFL		
KLE650CCF		
KLE650CCFL		

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: An estimated 793 units are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For the purposes of this recall, 100% of the vehicles will be eligible for inspection.

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: Summary: The circlips on the passenger footpeg mounting pins can break and fall off due to engine vibration or damage during assembly, causing the mounting pin to come out of its position. This can cause the passenger footpegs to fall off resulting in obstruction to other traffic. Detailed: Improper preparation prior to the plating process of a certain production batch causes the circlips to be brittle, causing the circlips to

crack when installed. Engine vibration, along with this condition, may allow the passenger footpeg mounting pin to rotate and come out, resulting in the passenger footpeg falling off which could cause obstruction to other traffic creating the potential for a crash resulting in injury or death.

- 5) 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:

December 9, 2011 – Kawasaki Motors, Malaysia, informed KMT that circlips supplied, as assembly kit parts, were breaking during assembly of the kick pedal for their domestic model.

December 2011 through February 2012 - KHI and KMT conducted an investigation of the symptom and cause. KHI determined that there was potential for the passenger footpegs to fall off when the footpegs were unloaded and the vehicle was operated at higher engine running speeds. KHI also concluded the improper preparation during the acid washing process, prior to plating, was the root cause.

February 23, 2012 – Although KHI has not received any complaints from field, it has been determined that the potential for the passenger footpeg to fall off does exist. Therefore, KHI has decided to conduct recall as a precautionary measure. KHI then notified KMC of the recall.

- 6) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: see above.
- 7) 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 plans to send a recall service bulletin to all Kawasaki authorized motorcycle dealers beginning March 8, 2012 (electronic distribution) with hard copies of the bulletin mailed beginning March 9, 2012. Customer recall letters will be mailed to all owners, as indicated by KMC warranty registration data on March 12, 2012. Dealers will be instructed to remove and replace the left and right passenger footpeg pivot pin circlips.
- 8) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the customer letter is provided with this report for review and approval. Final copies of the recall service bulletin and customer letter will be sent to NHTSA after they have been finalized.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,
KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.



Russel Brenan
Senior Advisor, Government Relations and Public Affairs

Attachment