

July 26, 2013

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 2013 model year Ninja® 300 and 300 ABS Kawasaki 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. This Defect Report covers the vehicles and issue that was the subject of a NHTSA Preliminary Evaluation (PE 13-023). By taking this recall action to address this issue, KMC understands that no further response by Kawasaki to the open questions of the PE 12-023 is required.

- 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 conducting this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: Potentially affected vehicles are the 2013 model year Ninja 300 and 300 ABS (EX300ADF/ADFA/ADFAL/ADFL, EX300BDFAL). The beginning and ending manufacturing dates are: 07/16/2012 – 04/27/2013.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: An estimated 11,097 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.
- 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: On eligible units the vehicle may stall under deceleration due to an improper setting of the Electronic Control Unit (ECU). This could create the potential for a crash, 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:

November 22, 2012 – KMC informed KHI that there were some engine stall issues on EX300A/B when the clutch is disengaged around 3,000 rpm at cold condition.

January 25, 2013 – KHI determines from the investigation that there is improper program of fuel cut control at cold condition which caused the engine to stall. KHI decided to change program design of ECU and to take measure at occurrence basis because this problem may occur at limited condition and low speed before stopping.

April 6th, 2013 – KMT informed KHI that some customers of EX250L and ER250C experienced engine stall when disengaged clutch around 6,000-7,000 rpm after being parked in high temperature for a long time. KHI begins investigation.

May 17th, 2013 - The result of the investigation determines that hot engine stall is different from cold engine stall. Improper programing of the evaporative purge valve control causes engine stall on the EX250L/M, ER250C and EX300A/B with evaporative emission control system. KHI decided to change program design of ECU again and monitor this issue.

June 2013 – KMC informed KHI that hot and cold engine stall claims were increasing and it was difficult to discriminate between cold engine stall and evaporative engine stall.

July 25, 2013 – KHI notifies KMC of recall action.

- 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 plans to send a recall service bulletin to all Kawasaki authorized motorcycle dealers beginning August 2, 2013 (electronic distribution) with hard copies of the bulletin mailed beginning August 3, 2013. Owner notification letters will be mailed to all owners, as indicated by KMC warranty registration data on August 5, 2013. Dealers will be instructed to replace the ECU.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until August 5, 2013, the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A draft of the owner notification letter is provided for review. 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