



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 6, 2015

Mr. Don Good  
Sr. Product Safety Specialist  
Indian Motorcycle Company  
2100 Highway 55  
Medina, MN 55340

NVS-215KS  
15V-721

**Subject:** Loss of Rear Brakes

Dear Mr. Good:

This letter serves to acknowledge Indian Motorcycle Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

INDIAN/CHIEF CLASSIC/2015-2016  
INDIAN/CHIEF VINTAGE/2015-2016  
INDIAN/CHIEFTAIN/2015-2016  
INDIAN/DARK HORSE/2016  
INDIAN/ROADMASTER/2015-2016

**Mfr's Report Date:** October 30, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-721

**Components:**

SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC:FOUNDATION COMPONENTS:MASTER CYLINDER

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 7,611

**Problem Description:**

Indian Motorcycle Company (Indian) is recalling certain model year 2015-2016 Chief Classic, Chief Vintage, Chieftain, Roadmaster, and 2016 Dark Horse motorcycles manufactured January 2, 2015, to October 23, 2015. Due to a problem with the rear brake master cylinder, the motorcycles may have a reduction in, or a complete loss of, rear brake power.

**Consequence:**

A full or partial loss of rear braking power may lengthen the distance needed to slow or stop the motorcycle, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Indian will notify owners, and dealers will replace the rear brake master cylinder piston assembly, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin November 13, 2015. Owners may contact Indian customer service at 1-877-204-3697. Indian's number for this recall is I-14-04.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received Indian's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).


Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The information in your report suggests that Indian may have been aware of this issue more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please amend the chronology in your defect report to provide the events, with their dates, that occurred between the August warranty analysis and the late October Defect report filing.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement