SERVICE BULLETIN

M1679 2026-03-13

M1679: AFTERMARKET EXHAUST HEADER DEBRIS

Reason for Revision

Refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Document History

Date	Rev	Revision (Rev) Description
2026-03-13	-	Initial release

Purpose for Service Bulletin

This bulletin informs dealers that Harley-Davidson has identified instances of premature engine failure due to abrasive particle wear, specifically from debris inside **new aftermarket exhaust headers**. Recent evaluations have identified that certain newly manufactured exhaust headers may contain residual hard particles that, if not removed prior to installation, can migrate through the engine system and cause accelerated component wear or severe mechanical damage.

There has been a significant rise in engine replacements due to debris wear shortly after installation of an aftermarket exhaust header. Material analyses have proven that the source of the debris was contamination from inside the exhaust header. The contamination source has been found to be either from abrasive blasting processes or over application of hard coatings.

Contamination inside exhaust headers can be pulled into the combustion chamber due to reversion. Reversion is more prevalent on engines with aggressive camshafts due to increased valve overlap.

Required Dealer Action

Table 2. Required Dealer Action

Category	Description	Required
1	Must Perform Repair	☐
2	Repair If Presenting Symptom	☐
3	Feature Pack- Customer/Dealer Paid	☐
4	Informational Purposes Only	☑

Inspect the inside surfaces of all NEW exhaust headers prior to installation.

DO NOT install a header that has loose debris OR debris that can become loose.

If debris is found, contact the manufacturer for either:

- Replacement
- Cleaning instructions on how to clean the inside of the headers tubes

NOTE

A primary failure mode caused by abrasive contamination is premature wear of the piston rings and skirt resulting in oil consumption and/or burning oil. Microscopic aluminum oxide particles become imbedded into the piston skirts which continuously scrub the cylinders and piston rings. See Figure 1 thru Figure 3.

Figure 1. Debris in Oil Pan

NOTE

In the interest of preserving customer safety and satisfaction, always check for outstanding recalls whenever any motorcycle is brought into your dealership for either maintenance or service.

ROUTING	SERVICE MANAGER	SALES MANAGER	PARTS MANAGER	WARRANTY PROCESS MANAGER	LEAD TECHNICIAN	TECHNICIAN NO. 1	TECHNICIAN NO. 2	TECHNICIAN NO. 3	RETURN THIS TO
INITIAL HERE									

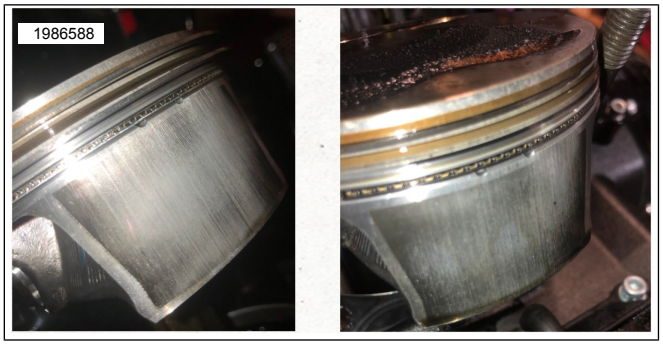

Figure 2. Debris Wear on Piston Rings and Skirts

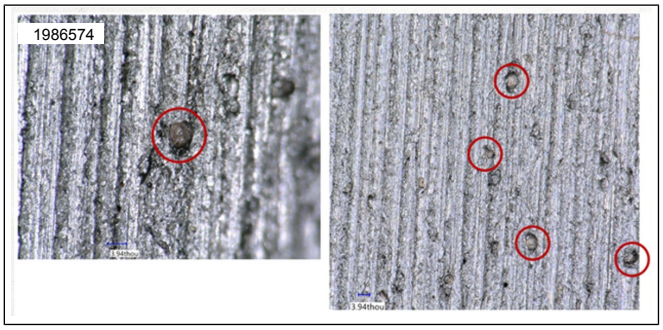

Figure 3. Embedded Aluminum Oxide

Vehicles Affected

All Years and All Models

Markets Affected

All markets affected.