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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

June 19, 2003

THE NEW AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
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03V-228 ① of ⑤

573.6 Defect Information Report

573.6.c.1.

Vehicle manufacturer's full name:

Polaris Industries Inc., Victory Motorcycle Division

Address:

2100 Highway 55
Hamel, MN 55340-9800

Vehicles potentially containing defect:

All M.Y. 2003 Victory Vegas motorcycles with California engine calibration manufactured prior to May 15, 2003

Vehicle Identification Numbers:

Complete list of affected VINs attached.

Inclusive dates of manufacture:

June 25, 2002 through May 14, 2003

Basis for recall population:

The condition giving rise to the recall is unique to the Vegas model, which began production on June 25, 2002. Motorcycles assembled after May 14, 2003 are not subject to this recall because Victory instituted an assembly line check for the condition on May 13, 2003.

573.6.c.3.

Total number of vehicles potentially containing defect:

122 vehicles

573.6.c.4.

Percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain defect:

Victory estimates that 10% of vehicles produced during this time frame may contain defect.

805 Seminole Avenue ■ Osceola, WI 54020 ■ www.victory-usa.com

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Victory Motorcycles
A Division of Polaris Industries

573.6.c.5.**Brief Summary:**

The vent line inside of the Victory Vegas fuel tank may be plugged causing potential expulsion of fuel when fuel cap is opened.

Detailed description:

The fuel tank used on the Vegas is designed to vent to the outside atmosphere through a metal tube which is attached to the inside of the fuel tank and exits out of the bottom of the tank. The fuel tank is manufactured at BEHR GmGh. After assembly BEHR coats the interior surfaces with a liquid corrosion preventative paint. Air pressure is used to clear the vent line of excess paint and to verify that the vent line is clear after the coating process is completed.

Upon investigation Victory discovered that the process of cleaning the vent line at its supplier's facility was not consistently controlled thus allowing vent lines to be plugged with paint in a small number of production fuel tanks. Such a condition could cause a pressure differential between the interior of the tank and the outside air pressure. This could result in expulsion of fuel if the fuel cap is opened in this condition.

573.6.c.6.**Chronology of principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect was safety related:**

In early May 2003, Victory assembly identified a plugged vent line on a fuel tank during an in-process inspection check. Further investigation revealed that 36 out of 400 fuel tanks in inventory had plugged vent lines. On May 13, Victory placed all vehicles in process on hold and implemented a procedure to test vent lines during the assembly process. Victory also notified its supplier of the issue so that it could be addressed in the supplier's production process. Even though no injuries or warranty claims related to this issue have been reported, Victory has concluded that the condition may be safety-related.

573.6.C.8.**Remedy program:**

Victory will test vent lines on vehicles listed. Fuel tanks with plugged vent lines will be replaced. Because the affected motorcycles are so new and any repairs relating to this issue would be covered under warranty, Victory believes there is no reasonable possibility that anyone would be eligible for reimbursement for pre-recall repairs.

Estimated date on which notifications to Owners will begin: 7-15-03

Estimated date on which notification will be completed: 7-22-03

573.6.c.10.**Owner letter:**

A proposed owner notification letter will be provided as soon as it is available.

573.6.c.11.

Manufacturer's campaign number: V-03-03

Signed: Suzanne K. Peterson

Suzanne K. Peterson

Victory Motorcycle Division, Polaris Industries Inc.

Date: 6-19-03

*M.Y. 2003 Victory Vegas California motorcycles
Produced from June 25, 2002 through May 14, 2003
Number of affected vehicles: 122*

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Vehicle Identification Numbers
5VPGB16L233000134
5VPGB16L633000136
5VPGB16L833000137
5VPGB16LX33000138
5VPGB16L133000139
5VPGB16L833000140
5VPGB16L133000142
5VPGB16L433001348
5VPGB16L433001625
5VPGB16L833001627
5VPGB16L133001629
5VPGB16LX33001631
5VPGB16L333001633
5VPGB16L733001635
5VPGB16L033001637
5VPGB16L433001639
5VPGB16L433001642
5VPGB16L833001643
5VPGB16L833001644
5VPGB16LX33001662
5VPGB16L133001663
5VPGB16L333001664
5VPGB16L533001665
5VPGB16L733001666
5VPGB16L933001667
5VPGB16L033001668
5VPGB16L233001669
5VPGB16LX33001712
5VPGB16L333001728
5VPGB16L133001730
5VPGB16L533001732
5VPGB16L933001734
5VPGB16L333001809
5VPGB16L133001811
5VPGB16L133001825
5VPGB16L333001826
5VPGB16L233001994
5VPGB16L633001996
5VPGB16LX33001998
5VPGB16L233002000
5VPGB16L633002002
5VPGB16LX33002004
5VPGB16L733002087
5VPGB16L833002088
5VPGB16L033002089

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5VPGB16LX33002214
5VPGB16L833002227
5VPGB16LX33002228
5VPGB16L133002229
5VPGB16L833002230
5VPGB16L433002242
5VPGB16L633002243
5VPGB16L833002244
5VPGB16LX33002245
5VPGB16L433002290
5VPGB16L833002292
5VPGB16L133002294
5VPGB16L833002298
5VPGB16L033002402
5VPGB16L833002408
5VPGB16L133002408
5VPGB16LX33002410
5VPGB16L833002422
5VPGB16L933002429
5VPGB16L033002478
5VPGB16L233002479
5VPGB16L833002520
5VPGB16LX33002522
5VPGB16L833002535
5VPGB16L333002538
5VPGB16L333002619
5VPGB16L433002743
5VPGB16L233002773
5VPGB16L833002775
5VPGB16LX33002777
5VPGB16L133002800
5VPGB16L333002801
5VPGB16L533002802
5VPGB16L833002828
5VPGB16LX33002827
5VPGB16L133002828
5VPGB16L333002829
5VPGB16LX33002830
5VPGB16L133002831
5VPGB16L333002832
5VPGB16L533002833
5VPGB16L333002877
5VPGB16L833002941
5VPGB16L133002943
5VPGB16L033003078
5VPGB16L733003188
5VPGB16L833003189
5VPGB16L533003190

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5VPGB16L733003181
5VPGB16L833003182
5VPGB16L033003183
5VPGB16L233003184
5VPGB16L433003185
5VPGB16L633003186
5VPGB16L833003187
5VPGB16LX33003198
5VPGB16L132003199
5VPGB16LB33003287
5VPGB16LD33003288
5VPGB16L833003383
5VPGB16LX33003394
5VPGB16L133003395
5VPGB16L533003397
5VPGB16L733003398
5VPGB16L533003402
5VPGB16LD33003453
5VPGB16L233003454
5VPGB16L833003457
5VPGB16LD33003503
5VPGB16L233003504
5VPGB16L033003520
5VPGB16L233003521
5VPGB16L433003522
5VPGB16L633003523
5VPGB16L033003584
5VPGB16L233003586
5VPGB16L433003587