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August 20, 2010

Chief Administrator

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W46-421
Washington, DC 20590

**Regarding: 1999 ~ 2010 Model Year Accessory Yamaha Double "T" Fat Handlebars
Insufficient handlebar tube thickness, Factory Modification Campaign**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide preliminary information required by 49 CFR 573 and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act regarding a defect notification campaign we are initiating. Attached are draft copies of the Owner's notification letter, for Agency review and approval, and the dealer technical bulletin. The envelope format has previously been approved by the Agency for prior campaigns.

1. Manufacturers Name: Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
6555 Katella Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Accessory Part Distributor: Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
6555 Katella Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

2. Affected Part: Make: Yamaha
Model: Double "T" Fat Handlebars (p/n STR-5PX75-12-00)
2002 ~2009 XV1700PC Warrior Motorcycles
Make: Yamaha
Model: Double "T" Fat Handlebars (p/n STR-4WM75-12-00)
1999 ~ 2003 XV1600 Road Star Motorcycles and
2004 ~ 2010 XV1700 Road Star Motorcycles

Production Period: P/N STR-5PX75-12-00 08/01/2005 – 07/31/2009
P/N STR-4WM75-12-00 08/01/2005 – 07/31/2009

3. The campaign relates to the motorcycle's accessory handlebar tube thickness.

4. Total number of subject parts: Current estimate: 300 units. This will be updated in a supplemental report as we finalize the affected production numbers.
5. VIN Range: As these accessory Double "T" Fat Handlebars are not a serialized part Yamaha is, out of an abundance of caution, notifying all registered owners of Warrior and Road Star motorcycles which might have these accessory handlebars installed. Again, the total number of suspect Double "T" Fat Handlebars is approximately 300. See Identification and exchange procedures in draft Technical Bulletin attached. Likewise this will be updated in a subsequent report as data is confirmed.
6. The campaign involves the replacement of the accessory Double "T" Fat Handlebars. Due to a manufacturing error, these accessory Double "T" Fat Handlebars, part numbers STR-5PX75-12-00 and STR-4WM75-12-00, manufactured from August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009, may have tubing thinner than designed where the bars narrow for the switch housings and grips. The affected handlebars could be weak enough in this area to break. If breakage occurs while the motorcycle is being ridden, the operator could lose control of the motorcycle which could result in a crash with injury or death. Please refer to the draft Technical Bulletin which will be furnished to the Agency and Yamaha dealers upon completion describing the situation which is the subject of this campaign.
7. On August 13, 2010, Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. determined that such a situation exists. This was determined pursuant to a quality control review, testing and a review of substantially similarly parts design.

We anticipate commencing dealer/owner notification shortly after the owner's notification letter is approved by NHTSA, the affected VIN range is ascertained and the Technical Bulletin service procedure is confirmed by Yamaha service staff. Assuming the Agency can approve the letter within 5 days of receipt (perhaps August 27) we will have the letter and Technical Bulletin printed. Normal turn-around time is 3 working days for such printing. Hence the materials will be ready for mailing approximately September 1st. Final copies of these notification documents will be forwarded to the Agency as soon as possible.

In the event we can answer any questions or provide supplemental information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct telephone number is 714-761-7842. The fax number is 714-229-7944. My email is brad_franklin@yamaha-motor.com.

Sincerely,

Brad Franklin

Brad Franklin
Manager, Government Relations

BRF/lf

cc: By US mail and Facsimile
Defects & Recall Information Analysis Division
Ms. Kelly Schuler (via email)
Mr. Robert Young (via email)