



Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

RECEIVED

July 17, 2003

2003 JUL 24 P 5 31

Mr. George Person
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

03V-255 ① of ③

Dear Mr. Person:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2003 and 2004 model year 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.

1) The manufacturer's name: The affected motorcycles were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Akashi, Japan ("KHI"), and Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. of Lincoln, Nebraska ("KMM"), in both cases using engines manufactured by KHI. All are distributed in the United States by KMC, which will assume responsibility for conduct of this recall.

2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect:

Model	Model Year	Engine Serial # Range		# Affected Units In U.S.
		Begin	End	
VN800-B8, VN800-B8L	2003	98227	98770	54
VN1500-E8	2003	126660	126980	30
VN1500-E7, VN1500-E7L	2004	131117	131447	321

(Note: "L" designation indicates California specification model)

3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect:
A total of 405 units are affected.

4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: One hundred percent of the affected vehicles are assumed to contain the defect.

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:

Summary: Accelerator pump diaphragms may be damaged from contaminated fuel, allowing fuel to leak from the pump actuating rod area.

P.O. Box 25252
Santa Ana, California
92799-5252

949/770-0400
Fax 949/460-5600
www.kawasaki.com

9950 Jaronimo Road
Irvine, California
92618-2084

Description: At the end of the engine manufacturing process at KHI, completed engines are briefly "bench tested" then moved to the motorcycle assembly area (KHI-manufactured motorcycles - VN1500) or shipped to KMM (VN800). The fuel used for this testing became contaminated, and can cause damage to the accelerator pump diaphragm. A damaged diaphragm can leak fuel from the area of the carburetor that houses the actuating rod for the accelerator pump. Fuel leaks can lead to the risk of fire.

- 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: This information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: This information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 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 will notify all Kawasaki retailers by means of a Recall Service Bulletin, which will be mailed to all dealers, as well as made available to dealers through a number of other distribution channels. Owners of affected vehicles will be notified by a Recall letter, mailed based upon KMC warranty registration records. Repair will consist of replacement of the accelerator pump diaphragm. All Recall repairs will be performed by Kawasaki retailers at no cost to the consumer. KMC anticipates sending Recall Bulletins to dealers no later than July 25 with consumer notification beginning within a few days of that date.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance:

A draft of the customer notification letter is attached to this report for NHTSA's review and approval. Other documents (i.e. Recall Service Bulletin) have not yet been finalized. KMC will submit copies to NHTSA when final.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,
KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.



Roger F. Hagle
Director Public Affairs



P.O. Box 25252, Santa Ana, California 92796-5252

ACCELERATOR PUMP DIAPHRAGM REPLACEMENT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE

03V-255 ① of ③

July 2003

John Smith
1038 1st Street
Anytown, USA 92000

MODEL: XXXXXX-XX
Engine: 0000001
Frame: 0000001
VIN0000000000000000

Dear Kawasaki Motorcycle Owner:

This notice has been sent to you in accordance with requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some 2003 VN800-B8/L, VN1500-E6 and 2004 VN1500-E7/L models. Contaminated fuel used during the final engine inspection process may have caused deterioration of the carburetor accelerator pump diaphragm, which may lead to fuel leakage from the accelerator pump chamber. Gasoline in the presence of spark or flame creates the risk of a fire and possible injury or death. Our records indicate that you have bought one of the affected units.

Kawasaki has initiated a Recall campaign to repair all affected units. Your authorized Kawasaki motorcycle dealer will correct this problem for you at no charge. The correction will consist of replacing the accelerator pump diaphragm. The actual repair will take under one hour to complete, however your dealer may need additional time to schedule your repair and order parts.

You may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C. 20590, or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 if you believe that:

- a. Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. has failed to, or is unable to, remedy this defect without charge.
- b. Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. has failed to, or is unable to, remedy this defect within a reasonable time, but not longer than 60 days after you first attempt to obtain remedy.

If you no longer have the vehicle described in this letter, or if it has been repaired, please help us to update our records by calling Kawasaki toll free at (866) 802-9381 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and your continued satisfaction with your Kawasaki motorcycle.

Sincerely,

KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.