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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

February 2, 2004

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

04V-063 ① of ②

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

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 vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Akashi, Japan ("KHI"), and imported to the U.S. by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. ("KMC") which will be responsible for the conduct of this recall campaign.

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

Model Year	Model	Vehicle Identification Number		Total # Affected
		Begin	End	
2003	VN1600-A1/A1L	JKBVNKA1*3A000044	005928	4350
2004	VN1600-A2/A2L	JKBVNKA1*4A009001	010851	1500

The affected vehicles were manufactured between October 2002 and November 2003.

3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 5850 vehicles may contain the defect.

4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: There is no estimate of the number of vehicles that might experience the failure. One hundred percent of the affected vehicles will be eligible for the repairs.

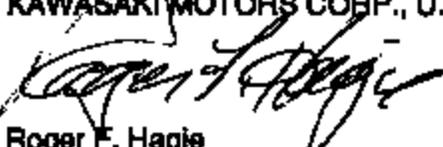
5) A description of the defect including both brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location of the defect: Summary - The brackets securing the exhaust muffler to the motorcycle could fail. Description - the two interconnected muffler bodies for this motorcycle are both located on the right side of the motorcycle, and are secured

to the motorcycle frame by two brackets. Under the vibration and pounding of riding, particularly over rough surfaces, the rear bracket (which is carrying the majority of the muffler's weight) can fail. This would typically be noticed by the rider in the form of a rattling sound. If this condition is not corrected, the front bracket could subsequently fail, and the muffler bodies could become detached from the motorcycle, creating a hazard.

- 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 dealers by means of a Recall Service Bulletin, with an estimated mailing date for the bulletin of February 13, 2004. KMC will notify all sales-registered owners of the affected models by direct mail with a Recall letter (text of customer message to be provided to NHTSA as soon as it becomes available). The target for mailing this letter is February 16. The customer will be directed to return the vehicle to an authorized Kawasaki motorcycle dealer for repairs. Repair will consist of reinforcing the two muffler brackets. As the majority of these units are quite new, and should be covered by the standard Kawasaki warranty, KMC does not anticipate that there will have been any customers who sought repairs that were not covered under warranty. However, KMC will advise of its willingness to reimburse costs for repairs for this specific failure and corrective action that customers might have incurred. Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until February 16, the date of the consumer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries. A separate notification reiterating this request will be sent to the Director, Office of Defects Investigation.
- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. These will be forwarded when completed.

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

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



Roger F. Hagie
Director Public Affairs