

**METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRE
NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION**



July 5, 2000

Jonathan D. White
Chief, Recall Analysis Division, NSA-11
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: NHTSA Recall No. 00T-004

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Section 573.5(c)(9), enclosed is a copy of the notice relating to the above referenced tire recall that was sent to various online and print magazines. These particular channels of communication were chosen based on the limited number of tires involved, the specialized customer demographics that would constitute the purchasing public and the reasonable expectancy that these customers would be reached through these outlets.

I am also enclosing a copy of the final letter to customers that is being sent to each purchaser upon receipt of their names and addresses from the motorcycle tire dealers who sold the ME880 motorcycle tires involved.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Sherwood S. Willard

Enclosures

cc: Dennis N. Barnes, Esq.

RECEIVED
03 JUL 12 PM 2:11
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

METZELER



Notice to customers via Internet / print publications

Heading: SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

This notice is in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Metzeler Reifen GmbH (Metzeler Motorcycle Tire of North America Corporation) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain sizes of the ME 880 motorcycle tire which it manufactures. The sizes affected are the 130/70HR18 M/C 63H TL, DOT: EB OKBOE (week 28 1999 forward) and the 160/80HR16 M/C 80H RF. TL, DOT EB 44COK (week 23 1999 forward) used on the Honda Goldwing Motorcycle GL 1500. Test results on these specific tires used on the Honda GL 1500 show instability occurring at speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour on road surfaces with very high asphalt temperatures in high temperature areas. It is not believed that any operating or other conditions cause the malfunction to occur. Avoid operating these tires in excess of 60 miles per hour pending replacement of them.

If you currently have possession of above mentioned ME880 Motorcycle tires IMMEDIATELY contact Metzeler Motorcycle Tire of North America Corporation at phone - 610-524-2190, fax- 610-524-2191, e-mail: METZPIR@AOL.COM.

Subj: Tire Recall
Date: 6/28/00 6:19:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: RSMenace
To: METZ PER

File: ME850 recall notice.doc (57072 bytes)
DL Time (48688 bps): < 1 minute

Cory,

As fate would have it, my scanner wouldn't work. So I imported a Metzeler logo from another document, put it at the top of the page, and got it out to the following online and print magazines (via online). A copy of what I sent is attached.

It went to:

- 2wf.com (American Road & Racing)
- AMA Online
- Cycle News Online
- Dealernews (online and print)
- Motorcycle Online.com
- Motorcycle Tour & Cruiser
- Motoworld.net
- Motorcycle Product News Online (and print)
- Parts Magazine Online
- Rider Magazine (print via online)
- Wing World Online
- Touring News of the Gold Wing Touring Assn.

If there's anything else, scream.

Regards,
Rick

**METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRE
NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION**



July 5, 2000

**Subject: METZELER tires ME 880 130/70 R 18 M/C 63H TL
and ME 880 160/80 R 16 M/C 80H RF.TL**

Dear Sir,

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

Metzeler Reifen GmbH has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain sizes of the ME 880 motorcycle tire which it manufactures. The sizes affected are the 130/70 R 18 M/C 63H TL, DOT: EB OK BOE (week 28 1999 forward) and the 160/80 R 16 M/C 80H RF.TL, DOT: EB 44 COK (week 23 1999 forward) used on the Honda Gold Wing Motorcycle GL 1500. Test results on these specific tires used on the Honda GL 1500 show instability occurring at speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour on road surface with very high asphalt temperatures in high temperature areas. It is not believed that any operating or other conditions cause the malfunction to occur.

It is recommended that the tires should not be used on very hot asphalt surfaces in high temperature areas and that speeds be kept below 60 miles per hour until the tires are replaced. It is possible that the driver of a motorcycle could lose control of the cycle while driving in excess of 60 miles per hour on very hot asphalt roads. A weaving sensation could indicate that a problem is about to occur. In such a situation, slowing down below 60 miles per hour should avoid any loss of control.

Metzeler will pay for the purchase and installation of replacement tires, including the cost of fitment, or shall arrange for refund of the original purchase price if the purchaser wishes through the dealer. Replacement tires are available at the dealership where you bought the tires and it should not take more than two or three hours to remove the tires of the motorcycle and replace them with new tires. For a refund, please contact your dealership where you bought the tires. In either case, the ME880's that you purchased should be returned to the dealer for destruction.

If you have any questions please call no. 610-5242190 or you may contact us directly at:

**Metzeler Motorcycle Tire
of North America Corporation
300 North Pottstown Pike, Unit 280
Exton, Pennsylvania (PA) 19341
Attn: Gold Wing Tires**

You may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20590 or call toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 800-424-9393 (Washington D.C. resident may call 202-356-0123), if the owner believes that the manufacturer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge if reimbursements or refunds are not promptly paid.

Any lessor who receives a notification of a determination of a safety-related defect or noncompliance pertaining to any leased motor vehicle shall send a copy of such notice to the lessee.

Please be assured, that Metzeler is working by all available resources to come up with a fitment for HONDA Gold Wing as soon as possible in order to meet the high standard of Metzeler products and customers expectations. Metzeler being a No 1 tire supplier not only of the replacement market but as well a major original equipment partner of the motorcycle industry, is well aware of this brand responsibility and 100% concentrated to achieve full customer's satisfaction also in the future.

Sincerely,

Metzeler Motorcycle Tire North America Corporation

METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRE RECEIVED
NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION

80 JUL 31 AM 11: 54



OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

July 26, 2000

Jonathan D. White
Chief, Recall Analysis Division, NSA-11
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: NHTSA Recall No. 00T-004

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Section 573.5(c)(9), enclosed is a copy of the notice relating to the above referenced tire recall that was sent to Metzeler Motorcycle Dealers. The purpose of the letter was to seek their further cooperation in contacting the ultimate consumers in order to facilitate the recall.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Sherwood S. Willard

Enclosure

cc: Dennis N. Barnes, Esq.
Oscar Boschetti

**METZELER MOTORCYCLE TIRE
NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION**



**Subject: METZELER tires ME 880 130/70 R 18 M/C 63H TL
and ME 880 160/80 R 16 M/C 80H RF.TL**

Dear Dealership Owner,

At the end of June, we notified you of the recall of the following tires:

IP # 1042400 130/70R18 M/C 63H TL ME880

IP # 1042500 160/80R16 M/C 80H RF TL ME880

These tires are used on the Honda Gold Wing Motorcycle GL 1500 and show a high speed vibration occurring at speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour on road surfaces with very high asphalt temperatures in high temperature areas.

We would like to express our thanks for your quick and cooperative response in returning these tires to either Tucker Rocky or Parts Unlimited. We would also like to thank you for reporting to us those who have already purchased these tires. It is very important that we get back all of the tires that have been sold or distributed to consumers. We therefore ask you to contact the customers who have purchased the tires and encourage them to return the tires or tell us who they are so that we may follow-up with them and obtain the return of the tires. In either case, it is vital to the recall effort that we take whatever steps are necessary in order to obtain full compliance with the recall request.

For more information concerning this recall please refer to the letter that your dealership has already received.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rich Munson