



September 8, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Recall Campaign - Engine Oil Leakage
1998-2000 BMW K 1200 RS Motorcycles**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Pursuant to Section 573.5 (c) of the above, we submit the following information:

1. **Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)**

**Designated Agent: BMW of North America, Inc.
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07675**

2. **Make: BMW**

Model Year/Model: 1998-2000 K 1200 RS Motorcycles

Inclusive dates of manufacture: 02/97-08/99

3. **The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 2368.**

4. **The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is less than 3%.**

5. **The potential defect involves the oil thermostat housing in the oil pump intermediate flange of the affected vehicles. A spring-loaded thermostatic element is held in place in the housing by a cover that is retained by a snap ring. On some of the affected vehicles, the snap ring may not have been completely seated by the supplier during production.**

In this case, during vehicle operation it would be possible for the snap ring to unseat, allowing the cover to loosen or detach. As a result, the

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BMW Plaza
Montvale, NJ 07648-1985

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(201) 573-2100

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(201) 782-0764

entire oil volume could escape from the engine in a relatively short time period, causing the engine oil pressure warning lamp to illuminate. As a result, significant engine damage could occur if the engine were not immediately switched off. In addition, oil could travel along the engine cover and ultimately contact the rear tire.

6. BMW AG has received a total of five reports of loose covers worldwide, including two in the United States. The reports include one accident, with minor injury, in Switzerland. Subsequent investigation and analysis resulted in determination of the failure mode and potential consequences as well as the range of involved vehicles.

BMW has received no reports, nor is BMW otherwise aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from this potential defect in the US.

7. Not applicable
8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign to remedy the potential defect in the affected vehicles. The snap ring installation will be inspected to determine if it is fully seated. If the snap ring is not fully seated, the complete oil pump intermediate flange will be replaced.
BMW expects to begin and complete the sending of notifications to owners by the middle of October 2000.
9. A copy of the dealer Service Bulletin will be prepared and submitted when available.
10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.
11. Not applicable

Sincerely,



Karl-Heinz Ziwick
General Manager
Environmental Engineering

Attachment



October 2000

DRAFT

Recall Campaign No. 00V-XXX, ENGINE OIL LEAKAGE

Dear BMW Owner:

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

BMW AG has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1998-2000 Model Year K 1200 RS motorcycles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the oil thermostat housing in the oil pump intermediate flange of your motorcycle. A spring-loaded thermostatic element is held in place in the housing by a cover that is retained by a snap ring. The snap ring may not have been completely seated by the supplier during production.

During vehicle operation, it is possible for the snap ring to unseat, allowing the cover to loosen or detach. As a result, a significant and rapid oil leak could develop. This would cause the engine oil pressure warning lamp to illuminate. As a result of the oil leak, significant engine damage could occur if the engine were not immediately switched off. In addition, oil could travel along the engine cover and ultimately contact the rear tire, reducing its traction and affecting the dynamic stability of the motorcycle, possibly resulting in a crash and personal injury.

DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The snap ring installation will be inspected to determine if it is fully seated. If the snap ring is not fully seated, the complete oil pump intermediate flange will be replaced.

The repair will require approximately two hours and will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing.

PRECAUTIONS

- 1. CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- 2. Before the repair is performed, if this problem occurs, the oil leak should be indicated by illumination of the engine oil pressure warning lamp. If this occurs, do not continue to ride the motorcycle. Pull over to a safe location and switch off the engine immediately. Arrange for pickup and repair as soon as possible.**
- 3. If you are not the sole rider of your motorcycle, please advise all other riders of these necessary precautions.**

OTHER INFORMATION

If you are no longer the owner of this vehicle, we would appreciate your furnishing us with the name and address of the new owner, using the enclosed postage-paid card.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized BMW center.

We appreciate your confidence in our product, and we wish to do everything we can to retain your confidence. Should you need additional assistance, you may contact BMW Customer Relations at 1-800-831-1117, Option #5.

If the BMW center is unable to remedy the defect without charge or within a reasonable period of time, you may notify the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (Washington, DC area residents may call 202-366-0123).

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.