



Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

November 10, 2000

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

00K-365 (a)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000 model year Kawasaki motorcycles imported to the U.S. by KMC. 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. They were imported to the United States by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: The affected vehicles are all model year 2000 Kawasaki ZX1200-A1 and -A1L (California specification) "Ninja" ZX12 motorcycles.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 4506 units are affected as follows:

ZX1200-A1	4,006
ZX1200-A1L	500
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: One hundred percent of the affected vehicles are estimated 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:

Brief Description: A leaking vent pipe in the fuel tank may allow fuel to drain onto the ground, creating a risk of fire.

Detailed Description: A rigid metal tube to convey fuel overflow from the area around the fuel fill opening passes through the fuel tank en route to a flexible drain hose which allows fuel to drain to the ground in case of accidental overfilling of the fuel tank. This tube can crack from vibration at a location inside the tank, allowing fuel from the tank to drain onto the ground. This creates a 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 supplemental report.

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92799-5252

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www.kawasaki.com

8950 Jeronimo Road
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92618-2084

- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: KMC was notified by Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI) of its intention to conduct recall action for this problem on November 8, 2000. Additional information will be provided in a supplemental 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 authorized Kawasaki retailers by means of a Recall Service Bulletin. KMC will notify all owners of the affected motorcycles by direct mail, using KMC's warranty registration records. Vehicle owners will be advised to bring the motorcycle to a Kawasaki dealer for repairs. Repairs will consist of inserting a supporting brace into the tank to dampen any effects of vibration on the vent pipe. Repairs will be made at no cost to the consumer. (Please note that a parallel recall, affecting some, but not all of these same models will be performed at the same time).
- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. Copies of these communications will be provided when they become available.

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