

# BMW of North America, LLC

June 22, 2001

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 20580

RECEIVED  
01 JUN 26 AM 9:21  
OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

01V-217 ①

RE: Recall Campaign - Upper Fork Bridge Bolt  
1998-99 BMW R 1200 C Motorcycles with Chrome-Plated Frame

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), Germany  
**Designated Agent:** BMW of North America, LLC  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07877
2. **Model Year/Make/Model:** 1998-99 BMW R 1200 C Motorcycles with chrome-plated frame.  
**Inclusive dates of manufacture:** 06/1997 - 06/1998
3. The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 3,342.
4. The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is 100 %.
5. The potential defect involves the tapped hole, on chrome-plated frames, where the upper fork bridge attaches to the frame head. After the electroplating process of the frame, copper residue can remain in the tapped hole. Due to the resulting electrolysis between the copper residue and the aluminum frame, in conjunction with moisture, corrosion may take place over time. As a consequence, the pre-stress of the connecting bolt that attaches the upper fork bridge to the frame head might decrease, leading to loosening and ultimately to breakage of the bolt. If this happened, the dynamic stability of the motorcycle would be affected and a loss of control could occur, resulting in a crash.
6. BMW became aware of the potential problem in August 2000, with the receipt of a single field report involving a damaged upper fork bridge bolt on one of the subject vehicles. Subsequent laboratory analysis determined that the corrosion results

Address  
BMW Plaza  
Montvale, NJ 07646-1858

Telephone  
(201) 578-2100

Facsimile  
(201) 782-0784



from electrolysis, due to the chrome-plating of the aluminum frame, and moisture. Thus, only R 1200 C motorcycles with a chrome-plated frame are affected.

BMW has not been informed, nor is BMW otherwise aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from this potential defect.

7. Not applicable
8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign on the affected vehicles, which will consist of reaming the hole in the frame, and installing a helicoil thread insert and a new bolt.  
  
BMW expects to begin and complete the sending of notifications to owners by the end of August 2001.
9. A copy of the retailer Service Bulletin will be prepared and submitted when available.
10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.
11. Not applicable
12. This campaign affects certain BMW R 1200 C motorcycles in other markets, and is identical, in terms of model designation, inclusive dates of manufacture, nature of defect, chronology of principal events leading to defect determination, and remedy, to the campaign being initiated in the United States. The total number of affected vehicles worldwide is approximately 14,800.

Sincerely,



Karl-Heinz Ziwica  
General Manager  
Environmental Engineering

Attachment

# DRAFT

01V-217 ③

August 2001

Recall Campaign No. 01V-XXX, UPPER FORK BRIDGE BOLT

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 1998-99 Model Year R 1200 C motorcycles with chrome-plated frames. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the tapped hole on the frame, where the upper fork bridge attaches to the frame head. Due to electrolysis combined with moisture, corrosion may take place in the tapped hole. As a result, the pre-stress of the connecting bolt that attaches the upper fork bridge to the frame head might decrease, leading to loosening and ultimately to breakage of the bolt. If this happened, the dynamic stability of the motorcycle would be affected and a loss of control could occur without prior warning, resulting in a crash.

## IMPORTANT:

CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW MOTORCYCLE RETAILER IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The repair will consist of reaming the hole in the frame head, and installing a helicoil thread insert and a new bolt.

This repair will require approximately 3 hours and will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW motorcycle retailer. Additional time may be required depending on the retailer's scheduling and processing.

**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 motorcycle retailer.

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 motorcycle retailer 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 1-888-327-4236.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC