



OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION RESUME

INVESTIGATION: PE01-039
 SUBJECT: Rear shock absorber fastener/mount failure
 PROMPTED BY: IE01-059
 INVESTIGATOR: *Bob Young*

DATE CLOSED: April 30, 2002

MANUFACTURER: Indian Motorcycle Company
 MODEL: Chief
 MODEL YEAR(S): 1999-2000
 VEHICLE POPULATION: 4,142

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Original equipment (OE) shock absorbers overload rear suspension resulting in their separation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | MANUFACTURER | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| COMPLAINTS: | 4 | 48* | 52 |
| CRASHES: | 1 | 1 | 0 |

* Six incidents of broken rear suspension shock absorber mounting brackets and forty-two of broken shock bolts.

ACTION: Indian is recalling the subject motorcycles (02V-124). *Close* this Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

INVESTIGATOR: *[Signature]* DIV CHF: *Richard [Signature]* OFC DIR: *[Signature]*

DATE: April 30, 2002 DA: 4/30/02 DATE: 4/30/02

SUMMARY: The original "Sway-Away" rear shock absorbers (identified by a black housing) are not adequate for the subject bikes' GVWR. Shock bottoming (i.e., "coil bind") consequently occurs at the upper range of the machine's weight carrying capacity and the resulting loads break the shock mounting brackets and/or bolts.

Indian is recalling the subject motorcycles to install shock absorbers from Progressive Suspension. The Progressives have a greater load carrying capability and may be identified by their gold color.

With Indian's recall, ODI is closing this PE.

JMS
5/2/02