



AMERICAN SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

April 13, 2006

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Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Smith:

On January 26, 2006, American Suzuki Motor Corporation ("ASMC") submitted a Part 573 report concerning the possibility of a crack forming in certain Suzuki VL1500 motorcycle fuel tanks. On February 3, 2006, ASMC initiated a safety-related recall campaign to address this situation. Since initiating the campaign, ASMC has discovered that the recall's fuel tank inspection process has identified more cracked fuel tanks than originally anticipated, which has created a replacement fuel tank availability problem.

To preserve customer satisfaction during the time of insufficient replacement fuel tank availability, ASMC is planning to implement an interim repair. In cases where a replacement fuel tank is not available, Suzuki dealers will be instructed to repair a cracked tank using fuel tank sealant supplied by ASMC. When a replacement tank becomes available, the customer will be notified and will be instructed to return to the dealer to have the replacement fuel tank installed. Once a sufficient supply of replacement fuel tanks has been produced, dealers will be instructed to stop using the interim repair.

Attached is a copy of an amended Part 573 report. The only difference between the attached report and the report originally submitted by ASMC is that a description of the interim remedy process has been added.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

Kenneth M. Bush
Associate Director, Government Relations

AMENDED SUZUKI PART 573 REPORT

1. Name of Manufacturer and Importer

Manufacturer: Suzuki Motor Corporation

Importers:

Continental U.S. - American Suzuki Motor Corporation

Hawaii - Montgomery Motors, Ltd.

Puerto Rico - Suzuki Del Caribe, Inc.

2. Identification of Motor Vehicles Involved

Affected motorcycles are all 1998-2005 model year Suzuki VL1500 motorcycles and all 2006 model year Suzuki VL1500 motorcycles produced prior to December 20, 2005. Refer to the attached table for details.

3. Total Number of Motor Vehicles Involved

37,511

4. Percentage of Motor Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect

Unknown

5. Description of Defect

Under certain rare operating conditions, repeated stress around the right front fuel tank mounting point can cause a hairline crack to form due to metal fatigue. This can allow fuel seepage to occur. In the presence of an ignition source, seeped fuel can cause a fire.

6. Chronology of Principal Events

June, 2005 - American Suzuki Motor Corporation was informed that NHTSA opened PE05-031, to investigate alleged fuel leaks from hairline cracks in VL1500 motorcycle fuel tanks. Suzuki Motor Corporation

initiated an investigation to determine the cause and extent of the condition.

November, 2005 - Suzuki representatives met with NHTSA representatives to discuss the results of Suzuki's investigation.

7. Description of Corrective Action

Suzuki will conduct a safety-related recall campaign to inspect the fuel tank on all affected motorcycles that have been sold to customers. Any fuel tanks that are found to have a crack will be replaced. If a tank is found to have a crack and a replacement tank is not available, fuel tank sealant will be applied to the tank as an interim repair. When a replacement tank becomes available, the owner will be contacted and a replacement tank will be installed. All affected motorcycles will have an additional rubber cushion installed between the front lower part of the fuel tank and the fuel tank frame support, and will have the fuel tank front rubber mounting cushions and spacers replaced with improved parts. American Suzuki Motor Corporation (ASMC) currently anticipates that it will notify Suzuki dealers about the recall on January 31, 2006, and will notify owners of affected motorcycles about the recall within two weeks of dealer notification. We expect that distributors in Hawaii and Puerto Rico will follow a similar schedule.

Enclosed is a copy of ASMC's plan for reimbursing owners and purchasers who incurred costs for remedies in advance of recall notification.

8. Copy of Notices

Enclosed are a copy of the initial notification letter that Suzuki Motor Corporation sent to ASMC, a copy of ASMC's draft dealer notification letter, and a copy of ASMC's draft owner notification letter.

9. Suzuki Campaign Number

2087