



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-005
Date Opened: 01/26/2007 Date Closed: 05/23/2007
Principal Investigator: Robert Young
Subject: Fuel Tank Leaks

Manufacturer: Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.
Products: 2003 Kawasaki VN1600 Motorcycles
Population: Confidential

Problem Description: Fuel tank leaks at rear mount weld/seam.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL

*Description of Other: Kawasaki EWR dealer field reports.

Action: Kawasaki is recalling the subject motorcycles (07V-216). (Copy attached). Close this PE.

Engineer: Bob Young

Date: 05/23/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd MB

Date: 05/23/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/23/2007

Summary: This PE was opened on the basis of EWR dealer field reports submitted by Kawasaki. Subsequently, Kawasaki notified NHTSA that it is recalling the subject motorcycles (NHTSA No. 07V-216) to address the fuel tank leaks.

May 15, 2007

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

07V-216
(2 pages)

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2003 model year Kawasaki Motorcycles. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information needed to comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c). This Defect Report covers the vehicles and issue that was the subject of a NHTSA Preliminary Evaluation (PE 07-005). By taking recall action to address this issue, KMC understands that no further response by Kawasaki to the open questions of PE 07-005 is required.

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The affected vehicles were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Akashi, Japan ("KHI") and imported to the United States by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. ("KMC") which will be responsible for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: This recall involves 2003 model year Kawasaki VN1600 motorcycles as noted below ("L" indicates California specification).

Model	Year	Begin VIN	End VIN	Quantity
VN1600-A1	2003	JKBVNKA1□ 3A000044	JKBVNKA1□ 3A005927	3922
VN1600-A1L	2003	JKBVNKA1□ 3A000247	JKBVNKA1□ 3A005928	430

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: A total of 4,352 vehicles are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For purposes of this recall 100% of the vehicles will be assumed 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 summary: Fuel leakage from the fuel tank.

Detailed description: The fuel tank is mounted to the chassis by means of tabs that are spot welded to the tank, then braised/welded around a portion of their circumference. Under certain conditions, repeated stress can crack the tank at the location of the tabs, and allow fuel to leak.

- 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:

January 26, 2007 – KMC receives a request from NHTSA concerning fuel leaks with 2003 model VN1600 fuel tanks. Pursuant to this information request, both KMC and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI – the vehicle designer and manufacturer) conducted additional investigation. An initial response to the request of NHTSA was provided on March 16, 2007.

May 11, 2007- decision to undertake recall action was initiated by KHI.

- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: see above
- 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 distribute a Recall Service bulletin, both electronically and via mail, to all Kawasaki motorcycle dealers. KMC will send a Recall letter to all owners of the affected models, using KMC warranty records. Target dates for these communications have not yet been determined. KMC will advise NHTSA once these targets have been established.

KMC has replaced a number of tanks under warranty. KMC will advise customers that it will reimburse them for their costs if they paid to have this repair performed.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this Recall to its web site until KMC initiates the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,
KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.

Roger F. Hagie
Director Public Affairs