

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

08V-306  
(5 Pages)

On July 1, 2008, Aprilia, Noale, Italy decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle(s) listed below, and Aprilia's designated agent Aprilia USA / Piaggio Group Americas, Inc. New York, NY, is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

2005 - 2007 model year Aprilia TUONO and RSV models

**Date this report was prepared:** July 8, 2008

**Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** Code not yet issued.

**1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.**

Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.  
140 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017

**Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.**

Pat Raymond, Director Aftersales, Piaggio Group Americas, Inc.

**Telephone Number:** (212) 380 4431 **Fax No.:** (212) 380 4458

**Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.**

Pat Raymond, Director Aftersales, Piaggio Group America, Inc.

Signed: 

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall:** Aprilia Tuono 1000 R and RSV 1000 models.

**2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:**

**Make(s):** Aprilia                      **Model Years Involved:** 2005 - 2007

**Model(s):** Aprilia TUONO 1000 R and RSV 1000 models.

**Production Dates:    Beginning:** 3/15/2005                      **Ending:** 07/31/2006

**VIN Range:    Beginning:** ZD4RPC0505S000127  
**Ending:** ZD4RRTT0X7S000522

**Vehicle Type:** Motorcycle                      **Bodystyle:** Motorcycle

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: There are no characteristics that make such a distinction.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period? 100%

## **II. Identify the Recall Population**

**3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.**

**Number of Vehicles:** Approximately 977

**Model Year Potentially Involved:** 2005 - 2007

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 977

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles: The supplier of the fuel pump / fuel filter component identified the component production range of March 7, 2006 to May 31, 2006 (used in motorcycle production through July 31, 2006) as one where the described

failure may occur. However in review additional warranty claims, similar failures were identified on vehicles produced as early as March 2005. As a result the motorcycle production date range for this recall was established as March 2005 – July 2006.

### **III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance**

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.** The concern of this recall is centered on the possibility that the fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump/fuel filter mounting flange may come loose. If this fuel hose connection is loose, or has become completely disconnected, then there will be a drop in, or loss of, fuel pressure to the engine. With a loose connection, the rider may experience difficulty in starting the motorcycle or experience a rough running engine while operating the motorcycle. If, in the worse case, this connection comes completely loose, allowing the fuel filter to become completely disconnected from the fuel pump/fuel filter mounting flange, there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure to the engine and the engine would stall as a result. As the fuel pump/fuel filter component is located inside the fuel tank of the subject motorcycles, there is no visible indication of a problem or potential problem. It is only through the drop in/loss of fuel pressure and the subsequent operational problems experienced that the problem is communicated to the rider.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** The fuel hose connecting the fuel filter to the fuel pump / fuel filter mounting flange uses two hose clamps to secure the hose to the components. These hose clamps may not have been tightened sufficiently, allowing the hose connection to become loose and leak fuel pressure, or allowing the hose to come completely off the component leading to a complete loss of fuel pressure.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** A drop in, or loss of fuel pressure to the engine.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.** A loose connection would cause a drop in fuel pressure to the engine with the rider having difficulty in starting the motorcycle or experiencing a rough running engine while operating the motorcycle. If, in the worse case, a loose connection allows the hose to come completely off of the component there would be a complete loss of fuel pressure to the engine and the engine would stall as a result.

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

Bitron SpA  
Strada del Portone  
95 – 10095  
Grugliasco  
Torino, Italy

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:** Mr. Daniele Tedesco, Sales Manager, Mr. Alessandro Ferrero, Quality Control Manager..

#### **IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.** With the request for information resulting from PE 08-019 and warranty cases, Aprilia, Italy contacted the fuel pump supplier for analysis and probable cause. Subsequently the supplier detected a problem in the tightness of the hose clamps securing the fuel hose that connects the fuel filter to the mounting flange.

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.** NA.

#### **V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.** The supplier is providing a repair kit (length of fuel hose and two clamps) to replace the original parts on the fuel pump / fuel filter component.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.** Replacing the fuel line between the fuel filter and the fuel filter / fuel pump mounting flange and replacing the hose clamps to secure the fuel hose to these two components will ensure that the fuel hose will not loosen or come loose from the connecting points. This secure connection will allow for fuel, under the specified fuel pressure, to be delivered to the engine as required.

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.** From August 1, 2006 on the fuel pump component used in production incorporated the same fix being implemented in this recall.

#### **VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.** Aprilia USA is currently tracking the availability of replacement part kits to address this recall to ensure an adequate replacement parts supply to support the initiation of this recall. As many of the affected

VINs have been in the market for sometime, Aprilia USA will be using the services of R. L. Polk to determine the most accurate information regarding the current owner's name and address. Aprilia USA is currently in the process of finalizing the contractual agreement with R. L. Polk for this purpose. Finalizing the contract will determine the date on which the availability of consumer names and address will be available and, as such, the mailing date of the notification letter.

The draft of the consumer notification letter will be provided to NHTSA for approval by July 31, 2008 as will a DRAFT of the dealer notification and Service Bulletin.

## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.** Copies of these notices, bulletins and communications will be provided.

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**

**The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended:** *This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.*