

February 17, 2012

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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 2008 through 2011 model year Ninja® ZX™-10R and 2009 through 2012 model year Ninja® ZX™-6R. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information immediately available. Additional information needed to fully comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c) will be submitted in a subsequent report.

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The vehicles in question were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., of Akashi, Japan (KHI), and imported to the U.S. by KMC, which will be responsible for conduct of this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: Potentially affected vehicles are the 2008 through 2011 model year Ninja ZX-10R and 2009 through 2012 model year Ninja ZX-6R. The beginning and ending manufacturing dates are: December 14, 2007 to July 26, 2011.
- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: An estimated 20,544 units are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For the purposes of this recall, 100% of the vehicles will be eligible for inspection.

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: Summary: The regulator/rectifier creates insufficient charging, resulting in engine stall. Detailed: The regulator/rectifier assemblies consist of power module assemblies (circuit board and heat sink) being adhered to the outer case which dissipates generated heat to the atmosphere. During the manufacturing process, improper handling of the adhesive curing process, and/or components to be adhered, can create insufficient adhesion in between, which causes the power module to separate from the adhesive due to deformation of the power module by heat generated during operating engine. This causes excessive heat inside the power module and uncontrolled charging current output, which results in insufficient charging to the battery. This can cause discharge of the battery and can lead to engine stalling and/or a no-start condition. Engine stalling while riding can create the potential for a crash resulting in injury or death.

- 5) 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: This information will be provided in a subsequent report.
- 6) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: see above.
- 7) 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 plans to send a recall service bulletin to all Kawasaki authorized motorcycle dealers beginning February 23, 2012 (electronic distribution) with hard copies of the bulletin mailed beginning February 24, 2012. Customer recall letters will be mailed to all owners, as indicated by KMC warranty registration data on February 27, 2012. Dealers will be instructed to replace the voltage regulator.
- 8) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the customer letter is provided with this report for review and approval. Final copies of the recall service bulletin and customer letter will be sent to NHTSA after they have been finalized.

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

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

  
dkt

Russel Brenan  
Senior Advisor, Government Relations and Public Affairs