



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/342-4680

VIA EMAIL (RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV and CERTIFIED MAIL)

February 23, 2012 - AMENDED February 28, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

The following information is submitted in accordance with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR Part 573.6.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect affecting motor vehicle safety potentially exists on certain Parts & Accessories modular Diamondback and Diamond-Black accessory brake lines intended for installation on certain Model Year 1996 through 2012 Dyna models and certain Model Year 1999 through 2012 Softail models.

IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:

This recall involves 5,757 Diamondback and Diamond-Black brake line kits with the part numbers listed in Attachment 1. These brake line kits were manufactured by Magnum Shielding and shipped from Harley-Davidson to the dealer network from approximately July 27, 2010 through December 7, 2011. This recall covers the entire population of the affected part numbers, although not all of these parts are likely to contain the defect.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:

Harley-Davidson has determined that some of the subject Parts & Accessory items may be susceptible to leaking if the inner lining of the brake line was over-dried during production and the installer mishandled the brake line during installation/routing (such as kinking). When both conditions exist, the subject brake lines may develop a brake fluid leak. If a leak occurs and remains undetected, the rider may experience a reduction in brake performance, increasing the risk of a crash which could lead to injury or death of the rider. This condition will not affect brake lamp function.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

Following a report of a brake line leak from a kinked accessory brake line from Harley-Davidson Japan after a dealer installation, and a review of four similar warranty claims, Harley-Davidson commenced a series of inspections and testing on the subject brake lines, including bench testing (April – June 2011), on-road evaluation (June 2011), burst testing (June 2011) and accelerated whip tests (July – September 2011). Following completion of these tests in September 2011, Harley-Davidson remained unable to duplicate the reported failure and tentatively concluded that the leaking brake lines were attributable solely to installation issues (e.g., kinking of the line while routing the hose).

In a further effort to identify any potential quality issues, in October 2011, Harley-Davidson engineers developed a more aggressive test to evaluate potential environmental factors that could affect the durability of this brake line. This testing revealed that a combination of dried inner liner and mishandling during installation/routing of the brake line (in particular, kinking) can lead to cracking of the liner. The determination that root cause was related to the inner liner material expanded the scope of the investigation, which led to continued testing and additional analysis.

A review of the warranty database with the expanded scope indicated that there were a total of 46 warranty claims for related issues as of December 2011.

On February 16, 2012, upon review of the results of the Recall Investigation Committee's investigation and analysis, Harley-Davidson's executive management made a determination that a safety-related defect may exist in the subject population and declared a recall to remedy the issue.

To date, Harley-Davidson is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:

Authorized Harley-Davidson dealers will inspect the motorcycle to confirm coverage and replace the affected accessory brake lines with the appropriate recall brake line kit, at no charge to the customer.

SUPPLIER INFORMATION:

Magnum Shielding
PO Box 827
3800 Monroe Ave.
Pittsford NY 14534
Scott Hurwitz, President
Phone: 585-381-8380
Fax: 585-381-9956

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR COMPANY PRE-NOTIFICATION REMEDY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:

Harley-Davidson Motor Company incorporates by reference herein the general reimbursement plan it has previously provided to NHTSA for reimbursing customers for remedy costs incurred prior to notification of this recall.

DEALER AND OWNER NOTIFICATION:

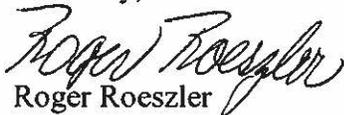
Harley-Davidson expects to notify its dealer network by the week of February 27, 2012 and the registered accessory owners by the week of March 5, 2012.

PART 577 NOTICE LETTER:

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned by ODI to this recall.

Sincerely,



Roger Roeszler
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.
Recall 0146

Enclosures (Draft Part 577 Owner Letter & Attachment 1, Brake Line Part Numbers/Fitment)



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/342-4680

DRAFT – FOR NHTSA REVIEW

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear Harley-Davidson Accessory Customer:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Parts & Accessories Diamondback and Diamond-Black modular accessory brake lines intended for dealer or customer installation on certain Model Year 1996 through 2012 Dyna models and certain Model Year 1999 through 2012 Softail models. Due to an issue with the material used for the inner liner, these Parts and Accessory brake lines may be susceptible to cracking and leaking if they are kinked or otherwise mishandled during installation and routing. If a leak occurs and remains undetected, the rider may experience a reduction in brake performance, increasing the risk of a crash which could lead to injury or death of the rider.

We are notifying you because our accessory registration records indicate that you purchased one of the affected Parts & Accessories brake lines. We strongly urge you to contact your dealer to make arrangements to have the appropriate service performed as soon as possible.

Please contact your authorized Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealer immediately and arrange an appointment to have your motorcycle repaired. Your dealer will inspect your motorcycle to confirm if your accessory brake line is included in this recall. If it is included, the dealer will remove the affected accessory brake line and replace it with a redesigned brake line, included in the appropriate recall kit. Actual dealer labor time to perform this service will be less than two hours; however, due to scheduling, the dealer may require your motorcycle for a longer period of time. The parts and labor will be free of charge to you. To verify that the service has been completed, your dealer will ask you to sign a recall claim.

If you have sold your motorcycle, it is important that you contact us at the telephone number below and provide us the contact information for your purchaser. This will enable us to notify the new owner of this recall. Also, Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If you have had this defect repaired before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact Harley-Davidson at 1-800-258-2464 in the U.S. or 1-414-343-4056 world-wide. Should you choose to ride your motorcycle prior to this service, we urge you to be aware of this condition.

If you take your motorcycle to your dealer on a mutually agreed upon date and they do not perform the required service to your satisfaction, please contact Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. for immediate assistance at the address or telephone number listed on this letterhead. If your dealer or Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. fails or is unable to remedy your motorcycle without charge within a reasonable time, you may wish to inform the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or contact NHTSA at <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you, but we are initiating this action in the interest of your personal safety and satisfaction with our products. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.
Recall 0146