

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RRR, AND EMAIL

May 23, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Recall Campaign
Accessory Luggage Rack**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Pursuant to Section 573.6(c), we submit the following information.

- Manufacturer:** Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)

Designated Agent: Samuel Campbell, III
Department Head, Safety Engineering and ITS
BMW of North America, LLC (BMW NA)
200 Chestnut Ridge Rd. (Bldg. 150)
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
- BMW AG is responsible for the design and engineering specification of the accessory luggage rack. BMW AG assembles the luggage rack from parts manufactured and obtained from several suppliers. The BMW part number of the accessory luggage rack is 8 527 038.

The luggage rack is an authorized BMW motorcycle dealer accessory that can be equipped to Model Year 2013 C 650 GT Maxi-Scooter models which were initially produced on July 30, 2012.
- The number of accessory luggage racks affected is approximately 195.
- The percentage of accessory luggage racks estimated to contain the condition is 100%.
- This recall involves the attachment of the accessory luggage rack to the scooter. During riding, the attachment bolts of the luggage rack could loosen. If the bolts continue to loosen, then the luggage rack could separate from the scooter and become a road hazard for drivers of other vehicles.

Company
BMW of North America, LLC

BMW Group Company

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07675-1227

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6. On December 3, 2012, BMW initially became aware of this issue from a single customer complaint in France. The complaint indicated that the luggage rack separated from the scooter although it did not create a critical riding condition.

Although only a single complaint had been received, and even though a critical riding condition was not reported, BMW initiated an engineering review process.

In January 2013, riding tests were conducted on scooters that were equipped with similar accessory luggage racks. At that time, a root cause could not be determined. Plans were then prepared for further riding tests and for laboratory component testing.

Between December 2012 and April 2013, four (4) additional customer complaints, pertaining to a separation of the luggage rack from the scooter, were received. All of these complaints occurred in the European market. No critical riding conditions were reported.

Also, seven (7) warranty claims, pertaining to damage of the luggage rack, were processed over the course of six months. In one of these claims, from March 20, 2013, it was reported that the luggage rack separated from the scooter. All of the warranty claims occurred in the European market. No critical riding conditions were reported.

Between December 2012 and May 2013, laboratory tests, additional riding tests, and engineering evaluations were conducted in order to determine the root cause. Luggage racks of varying specification were subjected to shaker table tests. Riding tests with these luggage racks were conducted. These efforts allowed the root cause to be identified. It was determined that riding conditions could result in loads on the attachment bolts that were larger than the specified design, resulting in loosening of the attachment bolts, damage to the luggage rack bracket, and eventually leading to separation of the luggage rack. It was concluded that the luggage rack bracket and attachment bolts would need to be redesigned.

On May 16, 2013, BMW decided to perform a voluntary recall.

BMW has not received any reports of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.

7. Not applicable.
8. The accessory luggage rack will be replaced by an improved version consisting of a stronger bracket, self-locking nuts, and it will be further secured to the scooter by a thread-locking agent.

The accessory luggage rack can only be purchased by customers at authorized BMW motorcycle dealers. In an attempt to reach owners who may have purchased the luggage rack, BMW will send letters to all Model Year 2013 C 650 GT Maxi-Scooter owners of record (approximately 850) as of May 16, 2013.

BMW will begin dealer notification in May and complete dealer notification in June. BMW will begin and complete owner notification in June.

9. Not applicable.
10. A copy of the Service Bulletin will be submitted when available. A copy of the owner notification letter will be submitted when available.
11. Not applicable.

Sincerely,

BMW of NORTH AMERICA, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Campbell".

Sam Campbell
Department Head
Safety Engineering and Intelligent Transportation Systems