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

VIA EMAIL ([RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV](mailto:RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV)) and CERTIFIED MAIL

May 15, 2014

Ms. Nancy L. 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 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect and noncompliance reporting regulations, 49 CFR Part 573.6.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect related to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain accessory Chrome Hand Control Lever Kits, P/N 36700053, intended for aftermarket installation on model year 2014 XL Sportster models.

**IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:**

This recall involves 209 accessory kits shipped in the U.S, which represents certain accessory Chrome Hand Control Lever Kits, P/N 36700053, intended for customer or dealer installation on model year 2014XL Sportster models. These kits were shipped 8/09/2013 through 4/21/2014. This recall covers the subject equipment population in its entirety, although not all of these accessory kits may contain the defect.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

Some of these accessory kits may contain brake levers with excessive chrome plating. In extreme cases this could prevent complete return of the master cylinder piston. If the piston cannot completely return and uncover the port-timing hole, fluid pressure will not be relieved. If this condition remains undetected, it could cause the fluid pressure to increase, possibly resulting in a front wheel lock-up, which could lead to a crash. Harley-Davidson has initiated this recall (Harley-Davidson Recall No. 0156) to correct this condition in model year 2014 XL Sportster model motorcycles in which affected accessory kits have been installed.

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:**

On 2/27/14, Harley-Davidson's Recall Investigation Committee (RIC) was notified of a potential issue involving chrome brake lever functionality through Harley-Davidson Customer Service.

The RIC immediately initiated an investigation and analysis of this potential issue. A search of Harley-Davidson's warranty and customer contact system was conducted on 2/28/14. That search disclosed no warranty claims and one customer contact related to chrome brake lever functionality issues. The customer contact referenced two crashes involving the same motorcycle, one involving the customer and the other involving a dealership technician who worked on the motorcycle following the first incident. Only one crash (the dealership technician) had reported injuries, which were minor.

Throughout March 2014, the RIC met with internal subject matter experts along with the part supplier and their Tier II suppliers. Parts from the motorcycle that experienced the issue were returned to the supplier on 3/28/2014 for failure analysis. Additional meetings were held during April and early May 2014 to determine root cause, evaluate functional impact to the motorcycle, and identify the potential population.

As this investigation and analysis was being completed, a search of existing warranty data and customer contact data disclosed no additional incidents. To date, no additional crashes or injuries have been reported.

On 5/8/14, upon review of the results of the RIC's investigation and analysis, Harley-Davidson's executive management made its determination that a safety related defect exists in the subject population and declared a recall to remedy the issue.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:**

Authorized Harley-Davidson dealers will inspect motorcycles with the affected kit to confirm coverage and replace the affected front brake lever with the recall lever kit, at no charge to the customer. Affected kits that have not yet been installed on motorcycles will be replaced with a new non-affected kit.

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION:**

Nissin Brake Ohio  
1901 Industrial Drive  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
Mark Jordan  
Phone (419) 420-5878

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

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), Harley-Davidson requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. All of the affected products are covered by the manufacturer's limited warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to § 573.13.

**DEALER AND OWNER NOTIFICATION:**

Harley-Davidson expects to notify its dealer network during the week of 5/19/2014 and registered accessory owners the week of 6/02/2014. Dealers will be requested to contact customers that have purchased the affected accessory kits, based on dealership sales records.

**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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roger Roeszler", written in a cursive style.

Roger Roeszler  
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.  
Recall 0156

Enclosure (Draft Part 577 Owner Letter)