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April 13, 2015

Chief Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE,
Washington, DC 20590

**Regarding: CERTAIN 2015-MODEL YZFR1MF/FC (“YZF-R1M”)
Factory Modification Campaign – Loose Rear Shock Absorber Piston Rod Nut.**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide preliminary information required by 49 CFR 573 and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act regarding a defect notification campaign we are initiating. Attached are draft copies of the Owner’s notification letter, for Agency approval, and the dealer technical bulletin. The envelope format and label has previously been approved by the Agency for prior campaigns.

1. Manufacturers Name: Yamaha Motor Company, Ltd.
2500 Shingai
Iwata, Japan

Imported Vehicle Distributor: Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
6555 Katella Avenue
Cypress, California 90630
2. Vehicles Affected: Make: Yamaha
Model: 2015 Model Year YZFR1M Motorcycles

Nominal Engine Displacement: YZFR1M is 998cc

Production Period: Affected models were produced between 01/2015 – 03/2015
3. The campaign relates to the motorcycle’s Rear Shock Absorber Piston Rod Nut (rear shock).
4. Total number of subject vehicles: Current estimate: 350 units. This will be updated in a supplemental report as we finalize the affected VIN range.

5. VIN Range: Tentative range will be supplied in forthcoming draft Technical Bulletin. Likewise this will be updated in a subsequent report as data is confirmed.
6. The campaign involves the replacement of the motorcycles rear shock absorber. In affected motorcycles, the rear shock absorber may not have been manufactured correctly; the piston rod nut may have been tightened before the piston had the correct full metal-to-metal contact. If so, it is possible for the nut to loosen, preventing proper rear suspension action, causing poor handling that could result in a crash with injury or death. Please refer to the draft Technical Bulletin which will be furnished to the Agency and Yamaha dealers upon completion describing the situation which is the subject of the campaign.
7. On April 10, 2015, Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. was informed by the manufacturer, Yamaha Motor Company, Ltd., that such a situation exists. This was determined pursuant to a quality control review, testing and a review of foreign models that use a substantially similarly part design.

We anticipate commencing dealer/owner notification shortly after the owner's notification letter is approved by NHTSA (draft copies of the Customer Notification Letter and Technical Bulletin is attached for your review), the affected VIN range is ascertained and the Technical Bulletin service procedure is confirmed and finalized by Yamaha service staff. Assuming the Agency can approve the letter within 5 days of receipt (perhaps April 20th) we will have the letter and Technical Bulletin printed. Normal turn-around time is 3 working days for such printing. Hence the materials will be ready for mailing approximately April 24th. Final copies of these notification documents will be forwarded to the Agency as soon as possible.

In the event we can answer any questions or provide supplemental information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct telephone number is 714-761-7842. The fax number is 714-229-7944. My email is brad_franklin@yamaha-motor.com.

Sincerely,

Bradley Franklin

Bradley Franklin
Manager, Government Relations

BRF/lf

cc: By US mail and E-Mail
Defects & Recall Information Analysis Division
Ms. Kelly Schuler (via email)
Mr. Robert Young (via email)
Mr. Joshua Neff (via email)