



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Subject: Forwarding documents to public file
Related to BMW Motorcycle Final Drive Petition

Date: August 30, 2012

From: *Bob Young*

To: Public file, DP12-001

Please file the attached material, related to web-based coverage concerning the referenced DP subject matter, for public access.

DP12-001

8/30/2012

MEMO

ATTACHMENT

fd_failure_list,OnLine

[Home](#)[Failure Entry Form](#)[FD Failure List](#)

If any of your data shows up wrong (e.g. typo or whatever) email correct info to [Jim Puckett](#) and I will correct.
 If someone entered mileage as xx,xxx.x, it will post to the MySQL database as xx.x (e.g. **26.0** is really **26000.0**)

BMW FD Failure List

Cnt	Last	First	City	State	Zip	Country	VIN (5 char)	Year	Model	Mileage	Fail Date	Fail Description
1			Oxnard	CA		USA		1999	K1200LT	26000.0	8/08/2001	Noticed vibration and grinding noise from rear wheel area. Attempted to stop bike to investigate, but gear oil had coated the rear wheel making the rear brakes useless and causing the rear tire to slip on the road. I managed to stop the bike safely but the final drive bearings were obviously disintegrating.
2			Bowling Green	KY		USA		2002	R1150GS	34000.0	June 2003	Complete bearing and ABS failure at ~34,000 miles.
3			Pearland	TX		USA		2002	R1150GS Ad		05/2006	Rear bearing failed, damaged the ring & pinion gear, and took out the seal. Also destroyed was the sensor for the ABS brakes.
4			Cleveland	OH		USA		2001	K1200LT-I		07/14/2002	Riding on expressway, the rear tire felt as if it was going flat. Pulled over and stopped, check rear tire, the final drive was leaking gear oil profusely, and all over the rear tire.
5			Easton	PA		USA		2003	K1200LTE	56737.0	3/9/07	rear momentarily locked at 70mph. followed by loss of rear wheel traction. bike felt like it was riding "up and down" with a corresponding "back and forth" motion in the handlebars. Failure occurred at 56,737 miles.
6			Oxnard	CA		USA		2002	K1200LT	5800.0	5/30/2003	The final drive assembly started leaking gear oil onto the rear wheel and tire. This could easily have caused a rear wheel slide and serious crash if it wasn't caught in time.
7			Lansing	MI		USA		2006	R1200GS-AD		8/26/2007	I noticed oil under the bike while refueling. It was leaking out of the rear drive unit.
8			Springfield	VA		USA		2001	K1200LT		Jul 2002	The bearings in the final drive disintegrated
9			Tulsa	OK		USA		2002	K1200RS		03/06/2006	The rear end of the motorcycle became very unstable. It felt like the rear wheel was about to come off. The fluid in the rear drive leaked all over the rear brake pads, tire and rear end. I was lucky to be able to maintain control without crashing. After stopping it did appear the the rear wheel was about to come off and rear drive fluid covered the entire rear end of the motorcycle
10			Kingsport	TN		USA		2004	R1150RT	25010.0	11/2/2007	Gear oil from the final drive leaking around inside hub onto wheel.
11			Oxnard	CA		USA		2002	K1200LT	11900.0	02/29/2004	The rear wheel started vibrating and making grinding noises, causing the rear of the bike to become unstable. I pulled over and found significant play in the rear wheel making the bike unsafe to ride.
12			Holiday	FL		USA		2006	R1200GS-A		06/29/2007	It started feeling a popping through the foot pegs, got off and checked it out and found nothing out of place. 10 miles on down the road the seal let go and it slung the lube all over the place.
13			Wentzville	Mo		USA		2000	K1200LTC	33000.0	2003	At 33,000 miles and again at 49,000 miles, the rear wheel felt like it was beginning to go flat. Inspected the wheel

											and found oil leaking from final drive unit.
14		Chesapeake	VA		USA		2000	R1200C	32000.0	9-24-2006	Began hearing a humming noise from rear that increased or decreased in pitch with speed and without regard to gear selection. Mileage approximately 32,000.
15		New York	NY		USA		2002	R1150R		06/02/07	Heard/felt grinding from rear. Stopped, inspected rear end, saw nothing. Rode 400 miles to rally, feeling slight popping in right footpeg, stopping frequently to check. Got slowly worse. At rally, noticed oil on tire sidewall. Removed rear wheel, felt notchy rotation in hub.
16		Chesapeake	VA		USA		2000	R1200C		7-15-2007	2nd failure: again began hearing humming from rear end that increased or decreased in pitch with change in speed without regard to gear selection or clutch engagement.
17		Olympia	WA		USA		2002	R1100S		2004	Large main bearing failure. There was a high pitched whine for about 250 miles before getting it to my local dealer
18		Wentzville	Mo		USA		2000	K1200LTC	49000.0	2005	At 33,000 miles and again at 49,000 miles,the rear wheel felt like it was beginning to go flat. Inspected the wheel and found oil leaking from final drive unit.
19		Islandmagee	N/A		Ireland		1993	R1100RS		aug 07	As per most increased vibration and taraced to final drive large bearing
20		Ward	CO		USA		2007	K1200GT	19000.0	11/08/2007	Puking Oil + Grinding Noise
21		El Paso	TX		USA		2000	K1200LT		June 2007	Oil all over Final Drive gear box, rear brake caliper/pads and rear tire. Caught it just before crown bearing went out. 1mm flakes on magnetic drain plug.
22		Kitts Hill	Ohio		USA		2000	R1100RT	86484.0	8/8/07	The bike developed a "whine". Upon inspection the "crown" bearing was bad. Also the pivot bearings at the rear of the swing arm were bad. While researching the repair instructions from the BMW manual I discovered that the rear pre-load was .010" too tight from the factory. I purchased the bike new so I knew it's history and maintenance. Poor design, it will be my last BMW.
23		Christchurch	Cant		New Zealand		2003	R1150GS	20.0	15/07/2007	Rear wheel side play significant.
24		Randleman	NC		USA		2005	K1200LT	35650.0	11/22/07	Noticed roaring sound coming from rear end after replacing the tires. Upon further inspection I found quite a bit of play in the final drive bearings.
25		Kambah	ACT		Australia		2002	1150GS	30.0	2005	Rear bearing collapsed, taking the oil seal with it out of the final drive, while I was riding the bike. Spilled oil all over the rear tyre too. Truly scary.
26		Hillsboro	OR		USA		2000	K1200LTC	42000.0	8/25/2005	There was a very pronounced rhythmic sensation, not unlike expansion strips cause, but the road was smooth! This was just a few miles before it got really shaky and noisy. Just as a side note, I did notice something was not right when we started out that morning, but could not put a finger on the problem. Hindsight says that it was talking to me about 150 miles before it finally went, but I was not sure if it was the rear drive or my paranoia about just such a thing happening on our vacation! After we manag
27		Lismore	NSW		USA		2008	K1200LT		3/11/06	Feeling of something not quite right!!!! This happened on three (3) occasions..
28		Andover	KS		United States		2006	K1200GT	15100.0	6/7/07	Excessive play in Final Drive. Note that final drive was "sealed for life" !!!
29		Andover	KS		United States		2004	K1200RS	28220.0	06/15/05	Noted play in Final Drive.

30		Andover	KS		United States		2002	k1200RS	23917.0	10/05/02	Rear Drive bearing loose.
31		Auburn Twp.	OH		USA		2006	K1200GT	18.9	05/07/07	Traveling eastbound on I-80 east of Spark, NV, I noticed that my GT wasn't able to obtain high speeds as usual. But there was no strange vibrations, no shimmy, nothing. I decided to stop at Lovelock, NV to fill up. I approached the fuel pump and my GT stopped on it's own, without braking. I fueled up the bike, then put it on the center stand. I thought I was going to find that my rear caliper was hung up, but I performed a rear wheel inspection only to find about 1/2" of play. No apparent oil leakage ... no
32		Winston	Ga		USA		2000	R1100RT	20607.0	9-25-04	Bike purchased at 10000 miles.Had 12000 mile service by BMW of Atlanta. Did my own service work before long rides every 2000 miles or so.At 20000 noticed final gear oil on rear rim.Pulled rear wheel and found damage to final dr bearing.
33		Cincinnati	Ohio		china		2002	R1150RT	42000.0	2004	Grease on rear wheel due to seal failure.Dealer removed drain plug and large chunk of bearing race dropped out of da hole....
34		Sedalia	Mo		United States		1999	R1100 GS	62000.0	9/10/2007	Grinding noise from rear end. Gear oil leaking severely
35		Newbury Park	Calif		USA		2004	R1150R Rcks	0.0	2006	Sensed slight judder through the foot pegs. Found that motorcycle was leaking oil from undetermined location along final drive. Oil leakage spread to rear wheel and underside of rear fender.
36		Lakeville	Mn		USA		2003	R1200 CLC	30.0	08/2007	Large bearing in FD. Riding along with my wife on the back. Sounded like a flat tire. Within one mile, I pulled over and found oil pouring down onto rear brake and tire. Took pictures. Had ridden the day before about 100 miles with no indication of failure. Trailered to local dealer and was there for about two weeks.
37		Andover	KS		United States		1993	K1100RS	69090.0	2/25/99	Excessive play in final drive. No leaks. Speedometer intermittent. Small bearing on crown gear had spun on mount.
38		Lenexa	KS		USA		2003	R1200CLC	45.0	10/06/2006	While ride w/passenger noise followed by rough feel in rear end. Pulled over and oil pouring from rear drive seal. Trailered to dealer.
39		Bodega Bay	Calif		USA		2002	R1200C	18.0	May 2005	Heard clicking noise in final drive at slow speed. Stopped to check it and the oil came rushing out.
40		Bodega Bay	Calif		USA		2002	R1200C	35.0	6-11-2007	On the way to an out of state rally stopped to check final drive fluid due to prior failure and found it empty. Took it to a different dealer for repair. They replaced the seals and it lasted 2000 miles and did it again.
41		Bodega Bay	Calif		USA		2002	R1200C	37.0	07-?-07	Riding home from the Dealer after having the bike serviced I smelled oil burning off the exhaust. Found gear oil leaking from front boot of drive shaft onto muffler. Took it back to the dealer for a third seal replacement to the final drive.
42		Andover	KS		United States		0000	1985	75000.0	1988	Very excessive play in final drive. Loose bearings. No leaks. Dealer rebuilt it, several times. Purchased a used rear final drive. Sold bike with 202,000 miles on it.
43		Andover	KS		United States		1985	K100RS	75000.0	1988	Very excessive play in final drive. Loose bearings. No leaks. Dealer rebuilt it, several times. Purchased a used rear final drive. Sold bike with 202,000 miles on it.
											My rear drive started to vibrate and whine while in Peru. I stopped at the first BMW dealer in Santiago, Chile and the

44		Prosper	TX		USA		2006	R1200GSA	31000.0	01/19/07	mechanic said I definitely had a problem. No oil was leaking and the unit was still working at this time. a picture: http://www.bogriffinrides.com/images/26daypic7.JPG
45		Greenfield TWP	PA		USA		1994	K1100RS	95.0	06/05/2003	I Heard a noise and thenlack of power,and then costed to a stop
46		Labadieville	LA		USA		2002	K1200LT	39640.0	3/04	This was the first failure. Bearing changed before any major problem occured. Noticed lots of metal shavings on drain plug magnet.
47		Labadieville	LA		USA		2002	K1200LT	59806.0	11/04	This was the second failure. Bearing changed before any major problem occured. Noticed lots of metal shavings on drain plug magnet.
48		Harvard	Illin		USA		1999	K1200LT	43.0	09/24/2006	Found Final Drive magnetic drain plug loaded with metal shavings (race failure) and metal particle (ball) debris. This condition was found by timely gear lube change.
49		West Point	GA		USA		2001	K1200LT	20.0	6/2002	Noticed a grinding noise while riding on Interstate. Pulled over to investigate and saw oil on tire and rim. Time to find a motel as we were on the final leg of a cross country trip.
50		Orlando	Flori		United States		2002	K1200LT	80000.0	8/21/07	Main Bearing failure
51		Phoenix	AZ		USA		1999	R1100RT	56.0	10-22-2007	final drive bearing failure
52		Hudson	MA		United States		1999	K1200 LT	24328.0	4/2006	The FD was making considerable noise. The oil had run out of the reservoir. I took it to the dealers to see if it was repairable or needed to be replaced.
53		Twin Falls	Id		USA		2000	k1200LT	86984.0	6-01-07	I had been runing 80-90 MPG. for 150 Mi. Slowed Down from 80 MPG to to 35 for a sharp curve. I felt a vibration and heard a new noise. Started WALKING 250 Mi. for home. Bearing Failed at 86984 mi. It now has 94000 mi. and there are oil spots on the rim. Bearing Failure AGIAN? The Gold-Wings are looking Better and Better.
54		Raleigh	NC		United States		2005	R12RT	18.0	July 2007	I noticed rear wheel had about 1/2 inch side to side play. Dealer replaced entire final drive unit (bad bearing?) under warranty--no trouble.
55		Irvine	Ca		USA		2000	K1200LT	53000.0	6-4-07	Leaking on rear tire
56		Annapolis	MD		USA		2000	K1200LT	98000.0	3-11-08	Lots of metal chips in final drive unit, excessive side play in rear wheel, vibration on smooth road
57		Floral City	Flori		USA		2003	K1200LT	24502.0	03/08/2008	Noticed a vibration begining it felt like a cupped tire within 10 miles it was apparent that something was wrong, stopped and bought new oil and changed it, the drained oil had mettalic particles throughout. Headed out again toward home in about 7 to 8 miles the back of the bike began a very slight rise and fall almost unnoticeable, the ball cage had broken and the balls were bunching up at the bottom which let the back of the bike sink a little, then every so often some of them would go around and it would
58		Sanger	TX		USA		2006	R1200RT	3610.0	9/13/2006	Not believing in lifetime lubrication of final drive, I decided to change fluid. Anti-skid sensor was covered in metal debris, the largest of which was about 5mm in diameter. Drained oil contained metallic sludge.
59		New Castle	CO		u.s.a.		2001	K1200LT	78500.0	5/15/05	I noticved a "growling" noise coming from the rear of the bike. I pulled over and observed rear drive fluid leaking from the main seal.
											Noticed erratic speedometer behavior and brake failure

60		Sedalia	CO		USA		2007	R1200 GS Adv	29961.0	8/29/2007	ABS light stayed on resulting from burnt up FD gear oil and metal shavings on the rear wheel ABS sensor.
61		lake ronkonkoma	ny		usa		1998	r1200c	22128.0	3/5/04	at about 40 mph coming to a stop light I applied rear brake and felt no decrease in speed I pulled off the road and saw a spiral of oil all over my tire and a dark coat of oil on the bolts at the input side.I had to have the bike towed to my house.
62		Hartland	Wi		USA		2005	K1200LT	12500.0	6-07	First Final drive bearings failed at 12,000mi. Second set of bearings failed at 20,000mi.
63		Hartland	Wi		USA		1999	K1200LT	16.5	9/2005	ENTERING HIGHWAY ON RAMP LOST POWER HAD TO PULL OFF ROAD AND HAVE BIKE TOWED TO SHOP. REPLACED FINAL DRIVE SHAFT, BEARINGS AND HOUSING. BIKE ALWAYS SERVICES AT DEALER, USED SYNTHETIC LUBE.
64		Brea	CA		United States		2005	K1200 LT	29000.0	12/21/07	HIGH PITCH WHINE AT VARIOUS SPEEDS, FINAL DRIVE OIL FAILURE (OVER HEATED)
65		olney	illin		richland		2005	K1200LT	14.0	July, 2006	grinding from the rear end-----intensified, began to ooze purple fluid from final drive in front of a Sears store in Mussel Shoals, Ala., in the middle of a road trip.
66		Winchester	MA		USA		2001	R1200C	30.0	10/22/03	Riding two-up on a hot day in the northern Mexican desert. Heard a cycling, grating sound that increased with speed. Found metal particles in FD oil. Rode bike very slowly to a dealer, where FD was diagnosed as near catastrophic failure. Entire FD unit replaced.
67		Cleveland	OH		USA		2001	k1200lt	82.0	8/30/2005	Riding 2-up on a cross-country trip, entering freeway. Felt rear end wobble and grind, pulled off to shoulder to find rear wheel and brake covered in oil. Cleveland BMW (dealer) changed rear drive oil and inspected entire bike at 80,117 on 7/10/2005, prior to trip.
68		Barrie	ON		Canada		2004	K1200LT	28.0	05/04/2008	Vibration from rear got progressively worse, metal on metal sound when checked on centre stand.
69		Taylor Ridge	IL		USA		1998	K1200RS	38395.0	4\16\2006	Noticed ABS sensor making contact with ABS ring teeth during cleaning. Determined that crown bearing has excess play and is showing disintegration upon teardown.
70		Waco	Tex		USA		2001	2001	33454.0	3-16-2008	hear noise stopped and noticed oil leaking for rear end
71		Kincardine	Ontar		Canada		2006	K1200LT	9300.0	18APR08	Today while riding at 50 mph, leaned to side and noted grinding noise. Noise not present at fully upright riding. Suspect bearing or gear damage in rear driveline. Also can hear buzzing in fairing when leaning. Will be contacting BMW on Monday
72		Ypsilanti	Mi		USA		2002	k1200ltc	18047.0	08-2005	It happened at the Grand Teton Reunion. The bike started to vibrate and a noticeable hum came from the the rear tire area above 35mph. When the service crew at the reunion pulled the drain plug it was covered with metal flakes and metal could be seen in the oil.
73		Ypsilanti	Mi		USA		2002	k1200ltc	18047.0	08-2005	It happened at the Grand Teton Reunion. The bike started to vibrate and a noticeable hum came from the the rear tire area above 35mph. When the service crew at the reunion pulled the drain plug it was covered with metal flakes and metal could be seen in the oil.
74		Palm Coast	FL		USA		2002	R1150RT	87.0	4-18-08	Rear wheel bearing failed with total loss of drive lube.
75		West Sacramento	CA		USA		2002	K1200LT	34008.0	4/12/08	Rear end started to feel loose. Stopped to see if tire was getting flat. Saw the rear drive leaking. Had it towed to A&S.
											Startd to click or grind, drove for another mile until in safe

76		Gaithersburg	MD			known		R1200 CLC	48.0	4/26/2008	place to stop. Oil on the tire, brakes and ABS sending units. Estimate of \$1800-\$1900 to fix. Out or warranty, hating life. If this is the life cycle of BMW rear drives I will not own another drive shaft bike from them.
77		Coldwater	mi		us	known		k1200lt	29000.0	10/2001	I felt rythmic vibration at about 35mph through foot pegs in the middle of the dragon. Within 10 miles the lateral movement of the back tire force me to stop. FD oil contaminated the brakes and covered the rim. Bike now completely unridible
78		Coldwater	MI		US	known		k1200lt	51.0	7/2003	Riding at 80 mph down EB I-80. Got off hwy for gas and felt familiar rythmic vibration in foot pegs as I rode over overpass. At gas station, found oil contaminating the rear tire and brakes.
79		Spokane	WA		USA	Later		K1200LTC	24.0	06-15-2004	Noticed vibration from rear wheel. Drained final drive and found metal flakes and shavings in the fluid far in excess of normal "metal dust" on mag drain. Saved fluid with contaminaints to show BMW.
80		Cornwall	VT		USA	84119		R850R	47.0	4/24/08	Was traveling at low speed, about to turn into my driveway. Did not notice anything peculiar, but when I got off bike I noticed a large amount of oil on my rear wheel, brake, and inside of fender. Rear brake did not work at all due to being totally soaked with final drive oil.
81		Sterling	CT		USA	77934		R1200GS	15.0	8/07	First noted very light, dusty oil film on rear drive. 75 miles later, tire sidewall is wet and drive is dripping. No discernable play or roughness in bearings.
82		St. Louis	MO		US	72077		K1200LTI	43647.0	5/6/2008	Felt vibration in rear wheel for some time. Actually thought it was tire going bad. After about 300 miles there was a noise and the wheel felt real loose. Again I thought the tire went completely flat as I was going about 45MPH and the rear wheel felt as if it would slide out from underneath the bike. Immediately noticed that I had NO REAR BRAKES, had to pump the rear peddle several times to even attempt to get any rear brakes. Used mostly fronts to slow and get pulled over to the side of the road.
83		Bellevue	WA		USA	72378		K1200ltc	35.0	2004	Oil dripping from rear wheel. Final drive found to be empty of oil. Wheel found to be loose. Would not hold oil. Bearings destroyed.
84		Rockmart	Ga		USA	xxxxx		R1150Rt	33542.0	27May08	FD bearing ball siezed
85		Milwaukee	WI		USA	91290		R1150RT	47024.0	5/31/2008	Crown Bearing Failure (Gring sound and noticable vibration)
86		Decatur	IL		USA	30805		R1200CLC	45.0	26Aug2006	Top-of-the-morning up and onto highway. Brake sensor light on. Pulled off and stopped. Oil leaking from rear end. Transport to repair shop.
87		Waimanalo	HI		USA	63774		R1200C	20.0	5/14/2008	I've got a 1999 R1200C. I recently did some servicing on it with my friend, and I think I am experiencing the start of final drive failure... We did valve adjustments, fuel filter, brake fluids, air filter, oil and oil filter, transmission fluid and the final drive fluid. Each fluid looked surprisingly good to me , except the final drive fluid. I expected it to be dark in color, as it was old, but it came out a glittering metallic ooze. I'd never seen final drive fluid before, so I thought it was n
											I've got a 1999 R1200C. I recently did some servicing on it with my friend, and I think I am experiencing the start of final drive failure... We did valve adjustments, fuel filter, brake fluids, air filter, oil and oil filter, transmission

88		Waimanalo	HI		USA		1999	R1200C	20000.0	5/14/2008	fluid and the final drive fluid. Each fluid looked surprisingly good to me , except the final drive fluid. I expected it to be dark in color, as it was old, but it came out a glittering metallic ooze. I'd never seen final drive fluid before, so I thought it was n
89		San Rafael	CA		USA		2001	R 1150GS	22650.0	06/28/08	I noticed the signs of failure on a short trip (aprox 30 miles) oil collecting on the rear rim, slight vibration through the left peg. I got home and cleaned the bike and verified that it was FD oil and not brake fluid. I took it to the shop and the bearing failed causing damage to the seals and pivot bearings.
90		Bridgewater	NJ		USA		2005	R1150RT	30.0	June 30, 2	I noticed a leak at the boot 900 miles into a 2700 mile trip through Nova Scotia. This must have been just after the seal blew out because it was only a slight leak. 27 miles later I felt a wobble in the rear wheel. When I stopped to check it out I saw oil all over the rear wheel. The bearings were gone at this point. A 5 hour tow brought me to Moncton NB where I've been for the last 5 days!
91		TUNKHANNOCK	PA		USA		2001	k1200lt	142538.0	6/3/2008	slight growling, as if rear tire was starting to cup. within 200 miles it sounded like it was going into catastrophic failure. fluid had bits of metal fragments and drain plug magnet was piled high with silvery patty.
92		Witt	IL		USA		2001	K1200LTC	65.0	7-5-2008	About 100 miles prior to failure (during the return leg of a July 4th weekend ride Illinois-Florida-Illinois), we began to hear an intermittent low-pitched hum or slight rumble that--in the absence of other indicators--I attributed to road surface texture differences. The failure occurred quite suddenly and catastrophically (for the bearing and seal, not the riders! I was able to maneuver to the shoulder to find oil streaming onto the rotor, wheel and road. Limped onto the nearest exit--13 on I-75, Valdo
93		Rockville	MD		USA		2000	K1200LT	40000.0	July 2004	Significant other and I felt a gentle bumping or grinding enroute to BMWMOA annual rally in Spokane, near Elko, NV. Pulled over under an underpass and nothing visible w. tires, but small leakage of clear fluid from rear drive was visible. A few more miles and it was obvious we were in trouble.
94		-des-Lacs	Quebe		Canada		1998	R 1200 C	44.0	July 6, 08	Whinnying sound was getting more noticable commomng from rear, soon after a sound as if the tire was rubbing and finally a crunching sound as the bearings was disintegarating all within 150 - 200 km
95		Powder Springs	ga		cobb		2005	LT	39000.0	4-27-07	Noticed by BMW while performing the 36,000 check up.
96		Aurora	CO		USA		1999	R1200C	40696.0	9/5/05	Crown Bearing Failure
97		Phoenix	Az		USA		1999	K1200LT	62.0	09/04/06	Heard grinding noise with 2 up about 150 miles from home. Felt slight slide and stopped. Noted Gear oil all over rear tire. Found final drive crown bearings failed.
98		Sparks	Nv		USA		2005	K1200LT	31000.0	10/07	Riding thru L.A. ON I-5 Saturday around 9:30 A.M. after a long ride 2 Up. Felt the rear end start to wobble like a flat tire had happened finally made it to the edge of the road after crossing 3 lanes of fast moving traffic. Oil on the wheel confirmed my dreaded feelings. Crown bearing failure. Bearing holder came apart. Fixed this time under warrenty and two year warrenty given on new drive.
99		Greer	SC		USA		2000	R1150GS	34.0	7/15/08	Just purchased bike from co worker. He had no idea of problem. I only noticed it when taking a right hander at around 40 mph. Went online and investigated and sure enough play at the rear wheel between paralever arm and

											rim.
100		Decatur	IL		USA		2003	R1200CLC	68.0	06/15/2008	Within 5 files after last fuel stop on long day riding, crossed railroad tracks at about 30 mph. Final drive started loud grinding sound. Second failure on same bike! Less than 2 yrs and 23k miles since previous failure!
101		Topeka	KS		USA		2000	K1200LT	21000.0	Aug 2007	Big Bearing Toast
102		Topeka	KS		USA		2000	K1200LT	26000.0	7-4-2008	Complete FD failure - Tire rubbing the swingarm grinding, etc.
103		Joppa	MD		USA		1999	K1200LT	46.0	5/08	Noticed vibration and grinding noise from rear wheel area. The bearings in the final drive disintegrated. The 2nd time, the final drive assembly started leaking gear oil onto the rear wheel and tire.
104		Battle Creek	MI		USA		2003	K1200LT	18.0	07-25-08	Felt a repeating thump in the foot pegs, stopped to check for tire issues. Continued on. Began whining/vibrating/grinding after 5 or 6 miles. Stopped again, gear lube leaking onto rear caliper/wheel.
105		Dallas	Texas		USA		1996	R1100RT	38000.0	11/15/2002	Noticed oil on rim and tire continued road trip to Bentonville BMW. they diagnosed the problem and replaced the large bearing. The failed bearing cage was broken into 20 to 30 pieces.
106		Foster City	CA		USA		2001	K1200LT	70564.0	11-01-2007	Drive train failure detected as non responsive exceleration. Engine running fine. Drove to nearest dealer during road trip.
107		Morgan Hill	CA		USA		1995	R1100GS	88000.0	07/21/2005	FD seal failure during a long trip. Noticed oil coming out in time to prevent bearing failure by not continuing to ride my GS. Hauled bike home in a rented U-Haul truck. My independent mechanic replaced FD bearing when he replaced the FD seal.
108		Leesburg	VA		USA		1996	K1100RS SE	65286.0	07/14/2006	Final drive failed, discovered by pool of oil on wheel after overnight rest of bike
109		westport	CT		United States		2002	1150GS	44000.0	07/15/08	odd vibrations in the foor pegs for about 200 miles prior to failure. No oil leaks
110		Boerne	TX		United States		2001	K1200LT	75200.0	03/31/2008	Since so many friends with K12LTs had failures, I preemptively replaced original 19-ball bearing with new improved 17-ball bearing at 53k mies. It was the 2nd bearing that failed at 75k miles while traveling I-10 at 80 mph. Raspy grinding noise coupled with rear wheel instability caused me to pull over.
111		Greensboro	North Carolina		USA		2002	Peraves ECOMOBILE	60000.0	May 2006	The big ball bearing came apart leaving the rear wheel wobbling and the rear brake lost all pedal. I was able to stop safely and call a tow truck to the dealer's shop.
112		Riverview	Florida		USA		1994	R1100RS	32000.0	08/09/2008	Noticed oil dripping from final drive onto wheel upon return from a 200 mile jaunt.Bike also has the dreaded M94 transmission and jumps out of 2nd,3rd,4th,and 5th gear at just over 1/2 throttle.
113		Wellington	FL		USA		1999	K1200LT	97000.0	12/1/2006	I was on my way into my development from a ride and heard the final drive gears grinding a lot louder than normal. A car behind me got my attention, pulled up alongside, and said "You're leaking oil!" When I got the bike to my garage, I discovered that the final drive seals had failed and all the oil had leaked out of it. \$650 later, I had my drive rebuilt at 441 Cycle Shop in Ft. Lauderdale.
114		west chester	pa		usa	N/A	1993	K1100RS	66000.0	5/1/2004	Drive exhibited large metallic flakes on the magnetic drain plug when performing an annual read drive fluid replacement. I used Syntec Synthetic GL5 gear oil for

											some years prior to that failure. Photos are available. No operational problems noted prior to finding the metal flakes in the gear oil. No oil leaks of any note. EPH
115		Kenosha	WI		USA	o vin	2006	R1200RT	15893.0	07/07/2008	Rear wheel became completely loose. It could be moved back and forth over an inch.
116		Henderson	NV		USA		2005	K1200LT	72500.0	06/17/2008	Did not notice anything major while riding but felt as though bike was wallowing a little in turns..not straight and level..attributed the feeling to my imagination and pressed on until I got to Tampa, FL on my trip from Las Vegas, NV
117		Bel Air	MD		USA		2004	R1150RT	78000.0	06/08/2008	Felt a vibration in the foot pegs and noticed a instability when leaning into turns. Drive failed again after 6000 miles of use.
118		Newmarket	NH		USA		2000	K1200LT	37600.0	08/17/2008	While ascending the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, the rear wheel started to feel wobbly. I thought it might just be the road, but my passenger asked if anything was wrong with the bike. I pulled over at an overlook and gear oil promptly started oozing out all over the back tire.
119		PLEASANTON	Califorina		USA		2007	R1200RT	7296.0	02/08/08	Wheel was loose approx 20mm movement
120		Dawsonville	GA		USA		1997	R1100RTA	67000.0	03/28/2005	Noticed oil leaking from final drive onto tire and garage floor, checked play in rear wheel and it was very loose. Pulled final drive myself and took to dealer for inspection where they found large bearing carrier disintegrated and seal destroyed.
121		crooks	sd		usa		1997	r1100rt	56000.0	07/15/2006	carrier bearing/output seal
122		Mount Pleasant	SC		USA		2002	R1150GS	52000.0	09/29/03	Final(rear)Drive main crown bearing gave out/wore out while riding I 35 in Texas- 2nd most dangerous highway in the USA at the time. front wheel wobble was the only indicator and after feeling it and pulling over the rear drive had oil leaking out. Had I been in a tough situation to pull over or higher traffic the wheel could have come off and I could have been in an accident with possibly a fatal outcome.
123		Clinton Corners	NY		USA		1995	R1100GS	338225.0	08/15/08	noise coming from final drive, while in neutral. Plus, rear wheel wobble.
124		Kingaroy	Queensland		Australia		2002	K1200LT	71844.0	04/25/2008	Noticed vibration/tapping noise in rear wheel, like something wrong with the tyre. Vibration got worse so nursed the bike home (20km) at low speed. By the time we got home, the noise had become a lot worse and felt like metal and metal grinding. After I put the bike on the stand, gear oil came leaking out over brake disc and rear tyre. Took bike to my mechanic.
125		monroe	mi		usa		2006	gs 1200 adventure	20100.0	08/23/2008	Oil leaking out of seal on right hand side around plastic cover for axle. Wheel seems to have to much play in it.
126		Dallas	TX		US		2003	K1200GT	17850.0	7/15/08	Bike purchased with 7K, rode to 10K no problems. Changed oil to 75W140 Synthetic and leak developed at front input seal. Leaking at rubber boot and drips onto FD and R Wheel. Changed oil back to 80W90 and still leaks. No other issues but will likely replace rear output seal and upgrade pivot bearings to the fixed units from Rubber Chicken Racing.
127		Snellville	GA		USA		2006	R1200RT	32000.0	07/28/08	Felt like the rear tire was low on air. I stopped to check. air pressure was correct. checked for side play in rear wheel. I felt none. there was no indication of oil leakage. Rode another 54 miles and stopped for gas. Rear brake

												failure exiting the interstate. On stopping for gas noticed rear wheel covered in oil. Dealer said the crown bearing failed taking out the crown seal.
128		Rockford	IL		USA		2000	K1200 LT	22400.0	08/25/2008		Started hearing what I thought was road noise from new tires. Progressively got louder with under 200 miles on them. Pulled drain plug and found metal shavings. No oil leaks anywhere. Had the bike serviced and changed the fluid less than a month ago at Milwaukee BMW with no indication of damage.
129		claremont	ca		usa		1995	R1100RSL	90000.0	08/08/03		Climbing a paved mountain road at 90mph the rear end tightened up and the bike came to a stop rather quickly but no skid or accident occurred
130		Irvine	CA		USA		2004	R1150RT	31177.0	09/01/2008		While changing my oil, as I do each Labor Day, I noticed a very large amount of metal in the drain oil from my final drive, after a little research I discovered this website and the article in Motorcycle Consumer News. My rear wheel has significant play (in a sickening way).
131		Queanbeyan	New South Wales		Australia		2002	R1150GSA	71000.0	08/02/2008		Riding to the 2008 OCR Rally and noticed a Vibration in footpegs and then the rear disc grinding against the brake caliper. BMW Assist came to the rescue and took myself and the bike home.
132		Snellville	GA		USA		2001	K1200LT	76550.0	09/02/2008		Grinding noise from final drive with a pronounced bump in the rear end. At total failure, brakes were coated with rear drive oil making stopping with the rear brake totally non-existent
133		South Haven	MI		USA		2001	R1200C	45000.0	08/20/2008		Over 100-150 miles, I noticed an unfamiliar vibration, also, when rolling in and out of the garage there was a distinct roughness and grinding ... she did not roll smoothly. Pulled the F-D plug...covered with metal paste/slivers and lots of slivers in the gear oil.
134		Sandpoint	Idaho		USA		2006	R1200RT	30300.0	06/28/08		Towed to dealer in Phoenix. Was not told in detail other than "final drive". Hope to find out more when I pick the bike up end of September.
135		West Park	FL		USA		1999	R1100RT	70000.0	08/12/2006		Had play in the rear wheel just before a cross country trip. Checked the rear drive fluid and found metal filings. Made an appointment with Denver BMW to have it looked at.
136		Yuma	AZ		USA		2000	K1200LT	37500.0	08/18/2001		Was attempting a C2C and Four Corners ride. Near Van Horn Texas noted oil on rear wheel and play. Heidi Weldon drove from Yuma AZ to pick me and bike up. Heidi then drove over 5000 miles total to drop me and bike off then come and pick up bike and drive it to San Diego for repairs then back to Mesa - with no reimbursement for fuel, wear and tear on truck and trailer or the numerous hours. Heidi drove over 6000 miles rescuing me due to final drives on this bike.
137		Carrollton	TX		USA		2007	K 1200 GT	9000.0	8/31/2008		Rear tire wobbled and felt like a low or flat tire. Movement was approx. 1 inch. There was no oil present on the drive or the wheel.
138		San Francisco	Caliofornia		usa		2002	r1100s	9240.0	08/23/2003		Complete drive failure on the way to a friends wedding. BMW roadside assist towed to nearest dealer. Drive was rebuilt and new clutch installed. Under warranty, no charge.
139		York	PA		USA		2007	K1200GT	16350.0	08/31/2008		Coasting down hill into Watkins Glen 50 MPH noticed a clanking sound. At walking speed clanking noise continued clutch in or out. Towed to Hermy's BMW Could not feel any play and no oil present. Mechanic diagnosed FD failure.

											Replaced same bike is good again.
140		San Jose	CA		USA	known	2005	R1200GS	600.0	10/15/04	Inner seal began leaking prior to the 600 mile service. This was discovered before the drive ran out of lubricant and failed.
141		Hillsborough	NJ		United States		2001	K1200LT	58280.0	09/11/08	Noticed a whirring sound from rear end. Checked the wheel - did not wobble at all on centerstand. Changed rear end oil - small amount of fuzz on magnet but not significant. Concluded tire must be bad (was down to the wear marks). ABS lights were flashing alternately, so I went to dealer to get them re-set. At the dealer, oil was draining out of the rear wheel! The classic failure indication. Dealer says they routinely fail at 25K or so, basically no matter how you ride, and should be replaced on that
142		Roswell	GA		USA		2004	R1100S	11000.0	11/24/2006	Transmission Failure. Transmission was very "stiff" when shifting into 1st gear from the day of purchase. Bike serviced by Master Techs on proscribed maint. schedule. "Stiffness" reported at each service but no remedy found until transmission failed.
143		Reno	Nevada		USA		2005	K1200LT	63775.0	09/05/2008	Seal leaking. No noise or grinding evident.
144		Shingle Springs	Ca		USA		2000	k1200LT	42350.0	09/19/08	Stopped for a lunch break, upon pre flight inspection, gear oil covered rim and wheel.
145		Corpus Christi	Texas		USA		2002	r1150rt	34747.0	9/16/2008	Changed final drive GL-5 fluid at every engine oil and filter interval, 3K-5K miles. At last change the fluid was a black color. The final drive started making noise and vibration started. The rear seal did not leak.
146		beaver dam	ky		USA		2000	k1200lt	45000.0	09/20/2008	noticed vibration, then grinding, felt unstable. checked found rear wheel loose. and leaking grease
147		Henrietta	Texas		USA		2003	K1200LTE	45932.0	09/15/08	Noise from the rear like a cupped tire.....turned into a grinding noise and felt it in the pegs, crown bearing disintegrated
148		New Britain	CT		USA		2005	R1200RT	17500.0	06/03/2008	Noticed increasing vibration from rear end, excess brake dust on rim, and a very hot rear rotor. Stopped 100 miles later as vibration continued to increase and found considerable play in rear wheel.
149		seattle	wa		USA		2002	K1200RS	25787.0	08/24/08	Final drive pinion shaft seal leaking, wheel rough when spun on center stand, disassm. and found cage broken in the large 19 ball bearing.
150		Logan	UT		USA		2000	R1150GS	48692.0	09/18/2008	Large amount of fine metallic particles in FD oil. FD Oil changed at last Motor oil change (oil looked good at that time), so failure must have begun recently. Crown bearing race pitted and grooved, other components seem salvageable.
151		Monroe	TN		USA		2001	K100LTC	50000.0	10/10/2008	Two "tinks" about 80 miles apart. Sounded like a large hard shell bug hitting the fairing. 75 miles later came to stop light and felt like rear tire going flat. Inspected rear tire and found rear end lube on tire and wheel wobble. I could spin the rear wheel and hear grinding and thumping noise. Put bike on a trailer like a Harley.
152		Ottawa	Ontario		Canada		2006	R1200RT	23500.0	20/07/2007	Detected significant play in rear wheel on long road trip. There was dry, black residue on the rear wheel. The failure was the wearing away of the matching splines on the wheel flange and the axle tube.
153		Monroe	MI		USA		2000	R11100RT	25881.0	04/17/2006	Bearing failure, shaft seal & seal ring
											Taper bearing destroyed along with Needle bearing on

154		Lynchburg	VA		USA		2002	R1150RTP	55000.0	09/01/2008	input shaft. Crown bearing on its way out but reasonable same with combo bearing. Evidence found of proor failure and most likely not all bearing were replaced at that time leading to current failure.
155		Lynchburg	VA		USA		2002	R1150RTP	55000.0	09/01/2008	Caught during maintenance. Taper bearing destroyed along with Needle bearing on input shaft. Crown bearing on its way out but reasonable. Same with combo bearing. Evidence found of prior failure and most likely not all bearing were replaced at that time leading to current failure.
156		Superior	WI		USA		2004	R1150RT	38000.0	07/15/2007	Magnet on oil drain covered with chrome flakes indicating outboard bearing failure. 08/05/2008: Second issue: The inner hub of the drive gear has separated from the gear itself, causing a serious oil leak out through the wheel hub and onto the tire drive surface.
157		Scottsdale	AZ		USA		2008	R1200RT	24899.0	09/29/2008	Unusual knocking noise was coming from the rear wheel at a one knock/wheel revolution rate. The bike on its center stand I spun the wheel with the left hand while I laid my right hand on the final drive housing. Slight grinding vibration indicated some serious problem. The bike was immediately taken to the local dealership where the final drive failure was diagnosed.
158		Spokane	WA		United States		1996	R850R	54000.0	06/01/2006	Leaking rear pinion seal @ 40,000 miles. Leaking rear main seal @ 45,000 miles. At 54,000 miles aluminum cone started to separate from crown gear body (shrink fit?), causing gear oil to leak from center of hub on left side. Possibility of sudden catastrophic failure as the aluminum cone carries the rt side bearing. This appears to be the same issues as reported for VIN #91209
159		Riverside	Iowa		USA		2002	K1200LT	26000.0	06/17/2007	The final drive seal was leaking. I took the motorcycle to Ginas to see what was wrong and they told me my final drive was out.
160		Orleans	ON		Canada		2004	R1150RT	32650.0	05/29/2008	Dealer believes a ball bearing split, continued to rotate for some time before causing main bearing failure and, in turn, final drive failure. When it failed, it went quickly and gear oil coated the right side of the tire, rim and the brake.
161		King City	MO		USA		2003	K1200LT	18990.0	09/15/2006	Growling noise in rear, drove about 6 miles at 30 mph until heavier growl and a few feet after that the seal leaked on the rear tire/rim.
162		King City	MO		USA		2003	K1200LT	38392.0	11/01/2007	shiny fecks on the drain magnet of the FD.
163		Brandon	Ms		USA		2004	1150RT	38.0	11?09/08	rEAR DRIVE SEAL FAILED ,NO PLAY IN THE WHEEL OR SOUND COMING FROM THE UNIT.
164		Legana	Tasmania		Australia		1999	K1200lt	94000.0	11/07/2008	bike vibration noticed 170 km from Melbourne. At Melbourne had delaminated Bridgestone rear tyre replaced with Metzler. Vibration gone but weak wheel bearing sound noticeable. Rode rode further 150km metal screech and grinding heard. Nursed to dealer next day.
165		Bay Shore	NY		United States		2002	R1200C	29693.0	11/14/08	Noticed fluid spraying radially around rear tire and spokes about 2 or 3 months ago as well as small drips on the bottom of the drain plug. After removing final drive, noticed a small puddle of fluid inside the bottom of the drive shaft too.
166		Melbourne	Florida		USA		1999	R1100SA	25864.0	08/28/2007	Final drive seal leak observed after parking the bike one evening. No other noticeable failure signs were present. I just happened to catch this one early in its failure.

167		Phoenix	AZ		USA		2000	K1200RS	27000.0	02/09/2008	vibration noted at rear drive. No side to side movement of tire/ wheel was noticeable.
168		Detroit	Michigan		USA		1999	K1200LT	100000.0	05 to 08	I had a total of 4 failures of the final drive on this BMW between 2005 and 2008. The last 2 were only 5,000 miles apart. Sold the bike.
169		ojai	CA		USA		2002	r1150rs	48000.0	11/18/2008	I noticed when mounting my rear wheel with new tire that their was approximately 1/8 inch play (or wobble) in the rear final drive unit. I thought ,riding the bike few days before, that my old tires were just giving me feed back due to their worn state. I stopped and took a look to check for under inflation. A few days later I took the bike to my bike local shop. After inspection it turned out that it was worn out pivot and wheel bearings that needed replacing.
170		Danielsville	PA		USA		2000	K1200 LTC	30884.0	09/07/2003	Ring and pinion gears sheared off.Bearing was replaced at 28,000 miles
171		LAKWOOD	CO		USA		2002	R1150RT	47007.0	11/22/08	Final drive bearings disintegrated, fed themselves into the gears. Tore up the seal. When wheel was removed the remains of the seal and bearing parts fell to the floor.
172		Ashland	MA		USA		2004	R1150RT	49000.0	10/18/2008	Large bearing failure
173		brandon	fl		usa		2003	k1200lt	28124.0	7/29/08	bearing failure on 7/29/08 28124 was the mileage 4 months later went out again 32861 was the mileage 11/28/08 daytona bmw was the best to get me&wife back on the road
174		Raleigh	NC		USA		1999	K1200LT	49000.0	07/30/2008	New tires installed @ 48,500 miles, and asked dealer to investigate "whining" sound. No problem found. 500 miles later felt grinding, and discovered oil leaking on rear wheel and brake pads in Knoxville, TN.
175		Titusville	FL		USA		2001	K1200LTC	60200.0	12/04/2008	first I noticed problem with the tires like they were out of balance with a noticeable vibration. next I replaced both tires and adjusted the rear preload on the shock. Problem persisted, vibration in footrests and when accelerating from a stop it felt like the rear tire was low on air and the bike was squatting.
176		Jacksonville	Florida		USA		2003	1150GSA	36233.0	11/29/08	Sudden with no prior Leakage/residue. After short 10 mile ride stoped for a lunch and while pulling off helmet smelt strong gear lube aroma only to look down and see FD lube pouring out.
177		Manheim	PA		USA		2000	r1100rt	36000.0	09/05/2005	noticed rumbling noise as I slowed down. I stopped immediately and saw oil coming out of the rear drive. There was a lot of play in the wheel. I towed the bike home. I removed the final drive and took it to my dealer for rebuild
178		Glenside	PA		USA		2004	R1150RT	36360.0	6/10/08	Approx. 3,000 mi. into a 13,000 mi trip I heard and felt a grinding or scraping noise coming from the drive train. A check on the side of the road showed no sign of leaking oil. Continuing on for another 5 mi. to a gas station a check there revealed oil now leaking from the Final Drive. After a tow to the dealer disassembly of the drive showed a trashed bearing which was replaced.
179		Glenside	PA		USA		2004	R1150RT	43450.0	7/18/2008	7,000 mi. after my first Final Drive failure I started feeling a thumping in my footpegs. No grinding or oil leaks, but a worn and cupped rear tire made me think it could be a tire problem. A trip to the dealer for a new tire didn't cure it. A check of the Drive drain plug showed a mass of metallic junk that made my stomach drop and my wallet significantly lighter. I opted to replace the complete Final

										Drive as evidently repair at the dealer of components such as these is a hit or miss affair.I've been ridi
180		Bedford	Nova Scotia	Canada		2006	K1200GT	32500.0	09/10/2008	Mileage is kilometers. Oil started weeping around outer ring.
181		Broken Arrow	Ok	USA		2001	K1200LTC	62000.0	10/10/2008	While changing oil at 62000 miles found flakes of bearing. No other signs of any failure. No oil leakage or driving systems noted.
182		Guadalajara	Jalisco	Mexico		2006	r1200gs	43500.0	16/11/2008	Noise on the final drive, iron into final drive oil
183		Mckinney	TX	USA		2007	R1200GSA	14000.0	12/01/2008	excessive runout of hub
184		Charlotte	NC	USA		2003	K1200GT	26000.0	02/19/2009	Developed a thump like there was a bolt in the rear tire. Thump turned into a growl then the whole thing took a dump and puked oil.
185		MIDLAND	TX	USA		1999	1100 GS	30000.0	02/21/2009	CHANGED LUBRICANT IN FINAL DRIVE (MOBIL 1 75W-90 SYNTHETIC) IN JAN 09. DID NOT NOTE ANY SIGNIFICANT METAL IN DRAINED FLUID OR ON MAG PLUG. FAILURE OCCURRED 100 MILES LATER. LOST SEAL - BEARING IS MAKING BINDING SOUND.
186		Rockwall	TX	United States		2007	K1200GT	9580.0	02/15/09	Rear wheel became loose. Failure was axel splines to hub. Side movement of the the wheel was 2mm when failure was noticed washing the bike. Max limit is 1mm. Still couldn't feel when riding the bike.
187		Fresno	Ca	USA		1996	R1100RTL	78555.0	08/06/08	Catastrophic FD failure on Alaskan trip. Required shipping the bike to John Valk BMW in Vancouver BC.
188		Fremont	MI	U.S.A		2000	R1100 RT-P	75438.0	07/22/2008	Felt vibration in right foot peg ,then progressed to rear wheel wander , then oil leaking from rear seal.
189		Stuart	Florida	USA		2005	R1200GS	45097.0	03/11/2009	Major lateral and horizontal movement of rear wheel.
190		Otto	NC	USA		2003	R1150GSA Adventure	29344.0	04/05/2009	Vibration in the footpegs, and notchy fleeing when rotating the wheel. Seal had not failed yet, but bearing failure was observed on disassembly.
191		Napoleonville	La.	USA		2006	R1200RT	48500.0	4/16/09	Rode bike to dealer for scheduled service. Tech noticed excessive play in rear wheel. No oil leakage, had not noticed any problem. Had checked rear wheel for play 500 miles before. Play between ball bearing race and axle tube
192		Jacksonville	Florida	USA		2005	R1200RT	53495.0	04/25/2009	Detected a little "play" when rocking rear wheel & tire side to side. Dealer inspected and confirmed big bearing going bad.
193		colchester	essex	uk		2004	k1200lt	37000.0	03/04/2009	oil over back tire and disc
194		Scottsdale	AZ	USA		2005	K1200LT	36000.0	04/07/2009	Small inner bearing race spun on ring gear shaft. Bearings showed no damage. Races showed no damage. I believe this to be a latent defect as the shaft to inner bearing race is to be a slight interference fit and since the bearing showed no heat damage this could not happen with out an out of specification issue from manufacturing/assembly
195		Draper	UT	USA		2005	R1200GS	37500.0	04/11/2009	At service, bearing deemed to be unsafe to ride the bike. Bike was maintained by BMW to their specs.
196		Lake Ozark	MO	USA		2002	R1150GS	75000.0	4/12/09	metal flakes noted on magnetic drain plug. final drive fluid changed every 6k miles.
197		Ross	CA	USA		2005	r 1200 gs	24000.0	12/19/2009	Noise identified as "bad bearing" by dealer. Front and Rear already replaced.
198		Cross Lanes	WV	USA		1999	R1200C	17588.0	05/15/2009	Began hearing noise from final drive similiar to sound of tire on grooved pavement (hum/drone noise), changed final drive oil and had lots of metal flakes/shavings and gray paste around magnetic plug. Big bearing failure.

199		Santa Barbara	Ca		USA	2001	R1150 GS	48000.0	03/01/09	Crown gear main bearing failure, caught it early. Ball condition was bad, but cage was still intact.
200		Peterborough	Ontario		Canada	1999	R1100S	45000.0	052/25/200	ball bearing cage failed, wiping out seal. Balls, and races showed pitting damage. Bearings and shims installed by dealer 7000KM (5000miles)earlier.
201		Levin	North Island		New Zealand	2002	R1150GS Adventure	45000.0	05/30/2009	Caught it early. Regular servicing showed a significant amount of metal flake and metallic past on the FD drain plug. I change the gearbox and FD oil with every service and last service (3000 miles ago) the plug was really clean. No play in the rear wheel yet nor is there any grinding or whirring, except perhaps a slight groan on left turns.
202		visalia	ca		USA	2000	K1200LT	120000.0	05/30/09	Wobble , leak, uhaul, cry.
203		Chester	NH		USA	2008	K1200GT	6900.0	06/06/2009	Oil seal failure at rear hub caused oil leak that soaked the brake rotor, brake pads, and tire. Loss of rear brake ensued.
204		Spring	tx		USA	2004	R 1150 RT	12454.0	06/19/2009	vibration at 50 mph, , intermittent at first. Checked for side play, none noted. Was 250 miles from home and headed back to hotel. leaking fluid.
205		El Cerrito, CA	CA		United States	2001	RT-P	44750.0	06/13/2009	Rode to work on Friday, woke up Saturday, puddle of oil under rear tire, made a few calls to smart people, decided it was the seal. Topped up oil, rode to work (about 15 miles), had Dealer pick up bike on Tuesday.
206		Rio Rancho	NM		USA	2008	K1200LT	7600.0	07/06/2009	crown bearing in pieces. nol other damage visible inside final drive. oil leak. rear brakes trashed due to leak, rotor scored due to brakes pads trashed. no vibration noticeable but puddle of final drive oil when parked.
207		New York	NY		USA	1999	R1100S	48000.0	05/26/09	On front straight at NHMS, complete loss of power to rear wheel; motor running fine but screeching sounds coming from gearbox/final drive. Max BMW from Portsmouth picked me up next morning. Not only shaft & spline failure but rear housing needs replacement.
208		spring	tx		USA	2004	R 1150 RT	12484.0	06/18/2009	MOVEMENT LEFT AND RIGHT ON HIGHWAY, ALMOST UNCONTOLLABLE. STOPPED, CHECKED FOR SIDE TO SIDE MOVEMENT. RODE BACK TO HOTEL (2 MILES) NOISE STARTED AND OIL LEAKING.
209		Jackson	Tn.		USA	1999	lt	37000.0	8/6/01	oil on rear wheel, found bearings bad
210		Castle Rock	CO		USA	2002	R1100S	87005.0	07/05/2009	Noticed oil all over rear tire after a 100 mi ride, seal came off with rear wheel, big bearing missing half its ball bearings.
211		Yuma	Colorado		USA	2004	R1150RT	8660.0	7/19/2009	oil leaking from final drive seal onto wheel/tire/brake

DP12-001

8/30/2012

MEMO

ATTACHMENT

FinalDriveRegistry

BMW Final Drive Failure Submittal Form

[Home](#)[Failure Entry Form](#)[FD Failure List](#)

Re: Final Drive Failure registry

Quote:

Originally Posted by **hmmmm90s**
pass, thanx.

There is no indication as to who even owns this website.

I set it up after noting that:

- 1) after 10 years of significant numbers of FD failures, BMW still has not gotten it right (e.g. all new design is failing in significant numbers too)
- 2) the biggest problem with reporting FD failures to the NHTSA is no consistent (standardized) way to file these failures so that all BMW FD failures show up in the same "group".

The 5th level NHTSA classification is Component. Listed below are the choices I encountered this morning for a 1999 BMW K1200LT:

1. Power Train
2. Power Train:Axle Assembly
3. Power Train:Axle Assembly:Axle Shaft
4. Power Train:Axle Hub
5. Power Train:Drive Line
6. Power Train:Drive Line:Differential Unit
7. Power Train:Drive Line:Drive Shaft
8. Power Train:Drive Line:Universal Joint

When I explored a 2002 BMW K1200LT, the 5th level component choices were:

1. Power Train:Drive Line
2. Power Train:Drive Line:Center Bearing Support
3. Power Train:Drive Line:Differential Unit
4. Power Train:Manual Transmission
5. Power Train:Manual Transmission:Floor Shift Assembly

Hell, there are even incidences of FD failures filed under brakes because the final drive leaked oil onto the brake pads

Since the FD failures cross BMW motorcycle models, model years, and now, even fundamentally different FD designs, there is no way NHTSA has a clue about the magnitude of this potentially fatal defect!

On 2/18/08, Karl Best <karl@karlbest.com> wrote:
Has anyone contacted the NHTSA to suggest that there's a problem with their classification categories? Feedback may help.

I have written a formal complaint to the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) after receiving a reply to my email sent 6 days ago and talking to them over the telephone yesterday. I have also set up a free MySQL database on www.bmwfinaldrive.com. This database is similar to Jeff Eagan's survey on www.bmwlt.com. There are 172 failure entries in the BMW LT survey, but only 48% have reported their failure to the NHTSA ODI.

Getting all of the data to the NHTSA in such a manner that they classify it as the same fundamental defect and recognize the potential to cause a serious accident is probably the only way short of a documented fatality to make BMW own up to this problem.

[REDACTED] - (FD rigorously maintained, PM replacement of bearing, seals and o-ring @ 96,000 miles, pivot bearings @ 110,000 miles)

Jackson, MO
[REDACTED]

DP12-001

8/30/2012

MEMO

ATTACHMENT

Get_A_Clue

Since the FD failures cross BMW motorcycle models, model years, and now, even fundamentally different FD designs, there is no way NHTSA has a clue about the magnitude of this potentially fatal defect!