

July 31, 2012

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Defect Report Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573

Dear Mr. Smith:

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2011 and 2012 model year Ninja® ZX™-10R Kawasaki Motorcycles. The following information, constituting a Defect Report, provides the information immediately available. Additional information needed to fully comply with the reporting requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c) will be submitted in a subsequent report.

- 1) The manufacturer's name: The vehicles in question were manufactured by Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., of Akashi, Japan (KHI) and imported to the U.S. by KMC, which will be responsible for conducting this recall.
- 2) Identification of the affected vehicles potentially containing the defect: Potentially affected vehicles are the 2011 and 2012 model year ZX1000JCF/KCF/JBF/KBF. The beginning and ending manufacturing dates are: September 1, 2010 to February 15, 2012.

Model	Beginning Vin	Ending Vin
ZX1000JBF/JBFL	JKAZXCJ11BA	JKAZXCJ17BA
ZX1000KBF/KBFL	JKAZXCK10BA	JKAZXCK19BA
ZX1000JCF/JCFL	JKAZXCJ10CA	JKAZXCJ19CA
ZX1000KCF/KCFL	JKAZXCK16CA	JKAZXCK15CA

- 3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect: An estimated 4,170 vehicles are affected.
- 4) The percentage of vehicles or items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect: For the purposes of this recall, 100% of the vehicles will be eligible for inspection.
- 5) A description of the defect including both brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location of the defect: Engine oil may leak from the crankcase at the starter mounting point and pool on top of the crankcase. Continued use in this condition can allow oil to spill over onto the rear tire, creating the potential for a crash resulting in injury or death.

- 6) A chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information with their dates of receipt:

November 2011 – KHI receives a report from its Malaysian distributor that oil leaked from the crankcase machined surface for the starter motor mounting. KHI requests the distributor to send the defective part to KHI.

December 2011 – May 2012 – KHI investigates defective parts received from the Malaysian and European markets. The leak was determined to have been caused by a blow hole in the crankcase casting at the affected area.

- Duplicating tests were conducted by using the defective part for an air leak check to confirm the condition of oil leak.
- For mass-production an air leak test was adopted for checking of starter mounting portion.
- KHI inspected European Distributor inventory. It was found that the problem rate was high. KHI started to study necessities of market remedy for the market.
- KHI got a motorcycle that was judged as defective during the distributor inventory inspection and started to conduct a duplicating test.

July 2012 – KHI found that oil leakage quantity, under certain driving conditions, and blow hole size was too large. Decision made to conduct a voluntary safety recall and notify KMC of planned action.

- 7) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect was obtained: see above.
- 8) A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect. The estimated date on which it will begin sending notifications to owners that there is a safety-related defect:

KMC plans to send a recall service bulletin to all Kawasaki authorized motorcycle dealers beginning August 6, 2012 (electronic distribution) with hard copies of the bulletin mailed beginning August 7, 2012. Customer recall letters will be mailed to all owners, as indicated by KMC warranty registration data on August 7, 2012. Dealers will be instructed to remove the starter and seal the crankcase.

Note: KMC requests that NHTSA defer posting information concerning this recall to its web site until August 7, 2012, the date of the customer notification. This way, KMC will have the opportunity to notify its dealers prior to public release of this information; dealer will thus be able to provide information to answer customer inquiries.

- 9) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance. A copy of the customer letter is provided with this report for review and approval. Final copies of the recall service bulletin and customer letter will be sent to NHTSA after they have been finalized.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in this matter.

Sincerely,
KAWASAKI MOTORS CORP., U.S.A.



Russel Brenan
Senior Advisor, Government Relations and Public Affairs