

Safety Issue Type: Recalls

January 29 2018 NHTSA Campaign Number: 18V076000

Brakes may Fail Due to Not Flushing Brake Fluid

These deposits may cause a valve within the ABS Hydraulic Control Unit to stick, reducing braking ability and increasing the risk of a crash.

NHTSA Campaign Number 18V076000

Manufacturer Harley-Davidson Motor Company

Components SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC

Potential Number of Units Affected 174636

Summary

Harley-Davidson Motor Company (Harley-Davidson) is recalling all 2008-2011 Touring, CVO Touring and VSRC motorcycles equipped with anti-lock brakes (ABS), including Road King (FLHR), Road King Police (EFI) (FLHP), Road King Police (EFI) (FLHPE), Electra Glide Standard Police (EFI) (FLHTP), Electra Glide Classic (EFI) (FLHTC), Electra Glide Ultra Classic (EFI) (FLHTCU) and Street Glide (EFI) (FLHX), 2008 VROD (VRSCAWA), CVO Road King 4 (FLHRSE4), Night Rod (VRSCDA), CVO Ultra Classic 3 (FLHTCUSE3), Night Rod Special (VRSCDXA), 2008-2010 Road King Classic (EFI) (FLHRC), 2008-2009 Road Glide (EFI) (FLTR) and Electra Glide Standard (EFI) (FLHT), 2009-2010 V-Rod (VRSCAW), 2009 CVO Ultra Classic (FLHTCUSE4) and CVO Road Glide 3 (FLTRSE3), 2009-2011 Night Rod Special (VRSCDX) and V-Rod Muscle (VRSCF), 2010 CVO Ultra Classic 5 (FLHTCUSE5) and CVO Street Glide (FLHXSE), 2010-2011 Electra Glide Ultra Limited (FLHTK) and Road Glide Custom (FLTRX), 2011 Road Glide Ultra 103 (FLTRU103), Street Glide 103 (FLHX103), Road King Classic 103 (FLHRC103), CVO Ultra Classic 6 (FLHTCUSE6), CVO Road Glide Ultra (FLTRUSE), Road Glide Custom 103 (FLTRX103), and CVO Street Glide 2 (FLHXSE2) motorcycles. Deposits may form on components within the brake system if the DOT 4 brake fluid is not replaced for a prolonged period of time beyond the 2-year maintenance schedule specified in the Owner's Manual.

Remedy

Harley-Davidson will notify owners, and dealers will flush the entire brake system with new Platinum Label DOT 4 brake fluid, free of charge. The recall began on February 14, 2018. Owners may contact Harley-Davidson customer service at 1-800-258-2464. Harley-Davidson's number for this recall is 0171.

Notes

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Affected Products (63)

Vehicle

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHP	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHPE	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHR	2008-2011

HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHRC	2008-2010
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHRC103	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHRSE4	2008
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHT	2008-2009
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTC	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTCU	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTCUSE3	2008
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTCUSE4	2009
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTCUSE5	2010
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTCUSE6	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTK	2010-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHTP	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHX	2008-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHX103	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHXSE	2010
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLHXSE2	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTR	2008-2009
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTRSE3	2009
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTRU103	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTRUSE	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTRX	2010-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	FLTRX103	2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCAW	2009-2010
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCAWA	2008
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCDA	2008
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCDX	2009-2011
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCDXA	2008
HARLEY-DAVIDSON	VRSCF	2009-2011

Associated Documents (19)

ISSUED Owner Notification Letter(Part 577)

RCONL-18V076-3992.pdf 164.78KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCONL-18V076-3992.pdf>

Remedy Instructions and TSB

RCRIT-18V076-9747.pdf 144.195KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCRIT-18V076-9747.pdf>

Manufacturer Reimbursement Plan

RMRP-18V076-5339.pdf 127.537KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RMRP-18V076-5339.pdf>

Recall Acknowledgement

RCAK-18V076-2382.pdf 359.373KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCAK-18V076-2382.pdf>

Defect Notice 573 Report

RCLRPT-18V076-4574.PDF 230.228KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLRPT-18V076-4574.PDF>

Chronology

RMISC-18V076-9924.pdf 108.314KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RMISC-18V076-9924.pdf>

Recall 573 Report - AMENDMENT 1

RCLRPT-18V076-1251.PDF 229.801KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLRPT-18V076-1251.PDF>

ISSUED Owner Notification Letter(Part 577)- second notification

RCONL-18V076-7893.pdf 160.074KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCONL-18V076-7893.pdf>

Miscellaneous Document - July 17, 2018 - Re-notification Letter

RMISC-18V076-2114.pdf 164.397KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RMISC-18V076-2114.pdf>

Recall Quarterly Report #3, 2018-3

RCLQRT-18V076-0807.PDF 211.342KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-0807.PDF>

Remedy Instructions and TSB - Added Required Dealer Action/Brake Fluid - 2018-06-01 Flush Stickers

RCRIT-18V076-6005.pdf 335.675KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCRIT-18V076-6005.pdf>

Manufacturer Notices(to Dealers,etc)- Recall 0171 Brake Fluid Change Reminder Stickers

RCMN-18V076-3567.pdf 80.107KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCMN-18V076-3567.pdf>

Recall 573 Report - AMENDMENT 3

RCLRPT-18V076-5152.PDF 229.968KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLRPT-18V076-5152.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #2, 2018-2

RCLQRT-18V076-6933.PDF 214.63KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-6933.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #1, 2018-1

RCLQRT-18V076-5588.PDF 214.528KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-5588.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #5, 2019-1

RCLQRT-18V076-0819.PDF 211.572KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-0819.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #4, 2018-4

RCLQRT-18V076-3258.PDF 211.454KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-3258.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #7, 2019-3

RCLQRT-18V076-3545.PDF 211.743KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-3545.PDF>

Recall Quarterly Report #6, 2019-2

RCLQRT-18V076-0465.PDF 211.658KB

<https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2018/RCLQRT-18V076-0465.PDF>

Investigations (1)

Sudden Brake Failure - Motorcycle

NHTSA ID PE16009

Date Opened July 06 2016

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this investigation in July 2016 based on forty-three (43) Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQ). During the course of this investigation ODI received a total of 145 VOQs related to the alleged defect on the subject motorcycles. Owners allege they experience a sudden and complete loss of brakes on one or both wheels.

To better understand the cause of the braking issue on the subject motorcycles, ODI requested NHTSA's Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) conduct inspections and testing of affected vehicle braking systems. Through its work, VRTC determined that deposits were forming on the valves in the Hydraulic Control Unit (HCU) of the Antilock Braking System (ABS). These deposits could prevent the proper function of the HCU and render the brakes ineffective.

To understand why deposits were forming in the HCU, Harley Davidson completed an analysis of the Dow 460 brake fluid used as original equipment on the subject motorcycles and determined that it had stability issues if left in the brake system for an extended period of time. Harley Davidson found that if a brake fluid flush was not conducted as outlined in the owner's manual for the motorcycles, and was left in the system for a period of time beyond their recommendation; deposits could form in the HCU. Through further testing, Harley Davidson identified an alternate, commercially available, brake fluid that did not have the same stability issues as the original fluid and could stop the proliferation of any current brake system deposits.

ODI sent Information Request (IR) letters to Harley Davidson and Dow Chemical (the supplier of the brake fluid on the subject motorcycles) to collect information about the subject bikes and the alleged defect. Harley Davidson responded in full on Sept 30, 2016 and Dow responded with a confidential submission on October 25, 2017.

ODI analyzed the information contained in both IR responses and concluded that motorcycles manufactured during Model Years (MY) 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 were failing at a rate greater than their peers. Based on this analysis and the brake fluid study conducted by Harley Davidson, a group of motorcycles was identified that were potentially affected by the instability of the original brake fluid. 2008 marked the introduction of ABS on Harley Davidson motorcycles and a change in the Dow 460 brake fluid used in the 2012 MY vehicles provided the bases for the scope of the affected population.

With recall action 18V-076 taken by Harley Davidson this investigation is closed as further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/> using the complaint identification numbers attached to this resume.