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July 19, 2018

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

Regarding: Certain 2018 model MT-07 and XSR700 Drive Chain Guard Bolt and Collar Replacement, Factory Modification Campaign.

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. Provided via the recall portal 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: 2018 Model Year MT-07 Motorcycles
Model: 2018 Model Year XSR700 Motorcycles

Nominal Engine Displacement: MT-07 and XSR700 are 690cc,

Production Period: Affected models were produced between 09/2017 – 04/2018

3. The campaign addresses the bolt fixing the drive chain guard to the swingarm may loosen due to vibration during riding on a rough road because of an inappropriate design. Therefore, there is a possibility that the bolt may fall off the chain guard, allowing the chain guard to hit the drive chain and break.

4. Total number of subject vehicles: Current estimate: 3493 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 retaining collar used on the motorcycles chain guard. In affected motorcycles, a bolt fixing the drive chain guard to the swingarm may loosen due to vibration during riding on a rough road because of an inappropriate design. Therefore, there is a possibility that the bolt may fall off the chain guard, allowing the chain guard to hit the drive chain and break. In the worst case, the broken part may fall on the road, distracting the operator or other traffic, which could result in a crash. 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 July 9th, 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation USA was informed by the manufacturer, Yamaha Motor Co. 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 July 26) 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 July 31. 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