

Street Brake Caliper Corrosion Chronology

Harley-Davidson Recall 0174

7/23/18 – An incident in Virginia involving an alleged stuck caliper piston was brought to the attention of Harley-Davidson’s Technical Subcommittee (TSC). There was no crash involved.

8/29/18 – A near crash was reported in Florida due to an alleged brake malfunction.

9/18/18 – A Harley-Davidson representative traveled to the dealership to investigate the Florida motorcycle and determined that the caliper piston seized due to corrosion.

10/8/18 – Harley-Davidson’s TSC opened an investigation to evaluate the incident and to review warranty and customer service calls potentially related to this issue. (An investigation was previously conducted focusing primarily on the U.K. due to a high number of warranty claims/reports associated with that market.)

10/31/18 – A search of warranty and customer contact data showed a total of four reports in the U.S. potentially related to caliper pistons seizing due to corrosion. (Additional reports were identified outside the U.S., primarily in the U.K.) This condition was reproduced in the subject components in previous lab salt spray testing.

10/31 – 11/28/18 – Further investigation was conducted to obtain failed parts from the field for confirmation of the failure mode and interviews with the dealers involved in the assessment and repair of the motorcycles.

11/28/18 – The TSC reviewed the returned field parts and the results of dealer interviews.

12/6/18 – The full Recall Investigation Committee (RIC) reviewed all available information and requested additional data.

12/10/18 – The full RIC reviewed the additional data provided by the TSC and recommended escalation to executive leadership.

12/14/18 – Upon review of the results of the RIC’s investigation and analysis, Harley-Davidson’s executive leadership determined that a safety defect exists in the subject population and declared a recall to remedy the issue.

To date, there has been one accident without injury in the U.S. related to this condition. (There have been five alleged crashes outside the U.S., but only three were confirmed and two involved injuries.)