

**WHEEL SPOKES**

All Harley-Davidson dealers were notified by Service Letter dated August 21, 1975, that we have been experiencing an increase in warranty claim forms for wheel spoke breakage on FL's, FX's, and XL's. The wheels affected are: front and rear wheels on 1975 models FL and FLH, and rear wheels only on 1975 models FX, FXE, XL, and XLCH. Only 16 inch and 18 inch wheels are suspect. A 5% failure rate is expected on the number of wheels involved.

Broken spokes could result in a flat tire resulting in a change in the normal handling characteristics of the motorcycle.

As a precautionary measure, this has been declared a safety defect in accordance with the National Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The affected vehicles are in the following V.I.N. ranges:

1A24439H5 to 1A48750H5  
2A24439H5 to 2A48750H5  
2C24439H5 to 2C48750H5  
9D24439H5 to 9D48750H5  
3A24439H5 to 3A48750H5  
4A24439H5 to 4A48750H5

All owners of record are being notified of the problem and are being instructed to bring their motorcycle to your dealership for inspection and possible spoke replacement. A copy of the customer letter is enclosed for your information. Each letter to the registered owner will include Dealer Service Card 029, which must be completed and signed by both the customer and you, the dealer, to verify that the service has been satisfactorily completed.

It is your responsibility to perform the required service on all affected vehicles, and to contact owners of affected motorcycles sold by your dealership but which are not shown on the enclosed lists. We are enclosing sufficient blank Dealer Cards for these vehicles.

The following corrective action must be taken on all affected vehicles:

When the motorcycle is brought in for your inspection, if any broken spokes are found, replace all of the spokes in that wheel.

Check spoke condition visually and by tapping spokes to determine proper tension. Tighten spoke nipples as necessary to produce a uniform metallic ring when tapped. If any spokes break while being tightened, replace all of the spokes in that wheel. If no broken spokes are found, tighten spokes and true wheel following procedure in the Service Manual. Wheel need not be removed from motorcycle for spoke tightening and truing. When respoking a wheel, do not cut the spokes from the wheel. Remove spokes by unscrewing nipples and return the spokes to the factory intact. Do not return spoke nipples. Consult appropriate

Service Manual for proper respoking and truing procedure. Spokes for each wheel must be bundled and returned to the factory with Dealer Service Card 029.

Dealer Service Card 029 must be filled out completely, making sure to include your dealer account number.

In the appropriate box(es), write in the number of wheels on the motorcycle that were tightened or respoked. If wheel spokes were tightened and wheel trued, mark the "INSPECT ONLY" box. If wheel was respoked, mark the "REPLACE" box.

Upon receipt of properly completed Dealer Service Card 029 and removed spokes, your account will be credited 0.4 hours labor for each wheel that required spoke tightening and truing and 2.5 hours labor for each wheel that was respoked. You will receive credit for the spoke sets replaced. Labor will be credited at your certified warranty labor rate.

We are including a special order blank to expedite supplying spokes to you. For equitable distribution and to assure meeting the spoke requirements of all of our dealers, we have predetermined the number of spokes we will supply to you initially. This allotment is based upon motorcycle shipments to each dealer and the estimated 5% failure rate on the number of wheels involved in the recall.

If you have any inventory of spokes on hand, please reduce the quantity shown on the order blank. Send the order in to the Parts and Accessories Department immediately.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR CO., INC.