

**DISC BRAKES 1973/FL, FLH, FX MODELS**

Our service letter to all dealers dated November 17, 1972 advised of a safety defect affecting 1973 FL/FLH and FX models produced before November 15, 1972 which have the front brake calipers installed on the rear brake and vice versa. Subsequently it was also discovered that some FX motorcycles were assembled during the same period with inadequate rear brake master cylinder operating piston clearance.

The combination of both the above stated conditions would cause a gradual or sudden lockup of the rear brake mechanism. The use of the rear brake caliper in front would reduce brake effectiveness. Rear wheel lockup or loss of front brake effectiveness could cause the operator to lose control, possibly resulting in an accident.

In compliance with the National Highway Traffic Safety laws, which apply whenever a safety hazard exists, we are required to have you make immediate inspection of all affected vehicles according to instructions under caption "Inspection Procedure" in this bulletin.

A list of registered owners and a list of undelivered vehicles which have been shipped to your dealership are included with this bulletin. All listed motorcycles must be inspected and corrected if necessary.

We are notifying all registered owners of affected vehicles in your dealership territory to contact you for this service. A copy of the customer letter is enclosed for your information.

Each letter to the owners will include special service card 018 which must be completed; signed by the customer and you, the dealer, at the time service is performed. A sample, and extra service cards to use for undelivered motorcycles are enclosed with this bulletin.

Immediately after service is performed, return completed cards 018 along with warranty claim form, in an envelope to Harley-Davidson Motor Co., Inc., Attention: Service Department, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

You will receive credit for labor and handling for each properly completed service card returned with completed warranty claim form, stating what work was done in accordance with the following schedule.

1. Replace caliper - front or rear...\$2.50.
2. Replace rear caliper mounting bracket...\$1.50 additional.

Note: As an aid in identifying brake parts and method of assembly, refer to your illustrated 1973 parts catalog, part No. 99456-73.

Inspection Procedure

1. All 1973 FX motorcycles below V.I.N. 2C12935H3 must be checked for correct rear brake master cylinder adjustment. See enclosed list of vehicles shipped to your dealership. There should be approximately 1/16 free play of plunger when brake pedal is depressed so that hydraulic pressure is relieved when pedal is released. Because it is sometimes difficult to feel this free play, make sure that, hydraulic pressure is relieved by removing master cylinder fill plug and observe if a fluid bubble or squirt is seen from relief port hole when brake pedal is released.

Adjustment is made by loosening locknut on brake rod at foot pedal and turning rod on clevis forward to increase free play or rearward to decrease free play. (See page 53 of Owner's Manual).

2. All 1973 FL/FLH/FX motorcycles below V.I.N. 1A/2C/2A 12617H3 must be checked to see that front and rear brake calipers are used in the correct (front or rear) position. See enclosed list of vehicles shipped to your dealership.

You will be able to identify the calipers by either of the following two methods: Our supplier indicates the retraction of a caliper with a number on the actuating half of the caliper near the piston with a red or black ink marking pencil. If this number has not been obliterated, the caliper can be identified by visual inspection. Specifications for front and rear are .022 to .025 front and .033 to .038 rear. (These numbers are simply written as 22 or 38). If you cannot identify the caliper as mentioned, the four bolts holding the caliper halves together must be removed and inspected for F (front) or R (rear) identification stamp on the piston itself.

All motorcycles produced after November 15, 1972 will have an external F and R stamp to indicate correct caliper location. All vehicles in plant have been inspected to insure calipers are located correctly as indicated above.

If any calipers are found to be installed in the incorrect position, or unidentifiable, they must be replaced immediately. Order one of each caliper to insure that you have the correct part available.

Rear caliper assembly, Part No. 44114-73

Front caliper assembly, Part No. 44104-72A

To replace rear caliper, remove 4 bolts and washers which secure outer caliper half to inner caliper half. Remove all caliper parts including friction pads and pins from mounting bracket. Disconnect hydraulic line from outer caliper and plug the hose opening.