**R Liquid Cooled Bike Driveshaft Maintenance and Replacement**

There have been stories, rumors and confusion regarding the driveshaft issues on BMW shaft drive motorcycles. As I have a couple of these bikes I have been doing some research after first learning of a service bulletin earlier in March.

I have obtained a copy of the service bulletin and will attempt to paraphrase the bulletin here for your information. Much of what I have written here is directly from the bulletin, thus some odd phrasing probably translated from German to English.

Basically the Service Information Bulletin pertains to R1200 and R1250, a.k.a. K5x models, which are **liquid cooled** R motorcycles, 2023 and older. The bulletin is known as SI 33 04 23 and was first published Dec 12, 2023. This includes R1200 and R1250 GS, GSA, RT, R and RS designations.

SITUATION

Since October 2023, a new maintenance schedule is valid for all K5x models. For the first time a new maintenance schedule is valid for all K5x models. For the first time, maintenance positions for the cardan shaft (driveshaft) are included.

NOTICE:

The new maintenance schedule is not limited to vehicles affected by the SI 33 02 22 service action Swingarm Drain retrofit and Driveshaft Check, but is valid for K5x models including retroactively. In case of retroactive validity (model year 2023 and older), affected customers will be informed about the change. This will be in the form of direct-to-customer letter with a description of the new maintenance schedule, specific owner’s manual insert and consumer warranty book insert. *I have not received any notification as of yet.*

For vehicles affected by SI 33 02 22 (SERVICE ACTION: Swingarm Drain Retrofit and Driveshaft Check), this service action must be performed first. All conditions described in this bulletin apply after the open Service Action has been completed.

No additional information is required for K5x models year 2024 and onwards. Those models have the new maintenance schedule in their owner’s manual.

This Service Information is published for all K5x vehicles with model 2023 and older.

• Check the cardan shaft with ISTA-led test method and grease the splines every 12,000 miles (20,000km). *It is my understanding that if the cardan shaft fails the test BMW Motorad will replace it at no cost to the owner.*

• Replacement of the cardan shaft (driveshaft) every 36,000 miles (60,000km) (cardan shaft driveshaft) **mileage** has to be checked).

• If the cardan shaft has already been replaced before 36,000 miles, like say 20,000 miles, it will be replaced again when the replacement driveshaft has been in use for 36,000 miles or in this example 56,000 miles.

**Note:** The cost for replacement can be claimed by the dealerships on the defect code 9033009900.

The replacement check and regrease of the cardan shaft (driveshaft) is covered by warranty and is offered to all customers that own a K5x motorcycle year 2023 and older and unlimited miles or general service to the customer.

**Note:** If the cardan (driveshaft) check (test result in ISTA) shows that the shaft needs to be replaced, the replacement can be claimed using defect code 9033009700 (NOT on SIB 33 02 22 SERVICE ACTION: Swingarm Drain retrofit and Driveshaft Check).

From what I hear, and somewhat apparent by the bulletin, 2024 and onward models will not be covered by a BMW warranty. Maintenance to learn about and consider in the purchase of a 2024 and onward model. If the cardan (driveshaft) check (test result in ISTA) shows that the shaft needs to be replaced, the replacement can be claimed using defect code 9033009700.

My 2016 RT has 23,000 miles on it and my 2018 RT has 12,000 miles on it so I will be working to get them both in for cardan shaft testing and possible replacement. I know of one buddy here in CA who has already had a cardan shaft replacement on his 2019 R1250RT at a bit over 36,000 miles.

Ride safe, keep the rubber side down.

*Tom Moe*