

BMW F650GS & Dakar Information

Background F650GS Model designed to be light easy handling machine to suit learner, commuter, touring & dirt road touring markets
Dakar variant with revised suspension & bodywork for more rugged bush track usage

History The F Series began with the Funduro manufactured in Italy in 1996. The funduro generated higher than expected sales and the F650 GS was rushed into production in Germany to capitalise on the success of the Funduro.

Sales Total deliveries 2000 to Oct 2002 (old forks) 47000
Source: BMW Annual Reports.
Markets in order 2001 - Germany, USA, Italy, France, UK, Spain, rest of world
Markets in order 2002 - Germany, Italy, USA, France, Spain, UK, rest of world
Source: BMW Annual Reports.

Sth Africa FY 2003 - 224 - So est total delivered SA 2000 to 2003 - Max - 500 odd
Source; Association of Motorcycle Importers & Distributors (AMID) SA.

Australia 2004 - 200 - So total delivered Oz 2000 to 2003 - Max - 600 odd
Source: BMW Australia email

USA (Estimate from recall) Mar2000 to Dec2000 1183 - So USA 2000 to 2003 - 4000

The statistics above indicate the vast majority of F650GS were sold into the Euro Market & used in low stress environments.
eg commuters, road touring, & hence the low failure rate.

ie Less than 5,000 to 10,000 (allowing for UK & Euro enthusiasts) in dirt environments

Known Issues

Front Wheel Spacer Cracking See TSB

Drivability Issues. The initial models were subject to surging and stalling
See TSB's 1300101, 1300301, 1300303

US Fuel Tank Recall - Fuel tank leak around the activated carbon filter.
See Recall 00V-267

Rear Caliper Support Bracket. Caliper Support Bracket Bends potential rear brake loss
See World Wide Recall Campaign 00 00 33 08 00 & Australian Recall No R01/025,

Ignition Switch Wiring Harness Chaffing.
The wiring to the ignition switch was poorly routed with chaffing causing electrical fires.

Main Wiring Harness Chaffing
The main wiring harness chafes near shock absorber preload adjuster causing electrical fires.
See TSB's 61 002 06 (013), 61 002 08 (050), Nov-2005 Measure No. US 5056875-01

Front Fork Axle Lug Failures No TSB's or recalls issued

Failure List The list below is a list of information on failures gathered from public sources

The individual rider "names" are the forum names or publically known names for each person and are used here to enable communications with the owners and allow the owners to elect whether they wish to respond to enquiries resulting from the use of this list.

F650GS & Dakar Fork Failure Timeline

2000 Model Introduction

2000 Jan to Dec Failure No F01to05
Note 4 or 5 Front Fork Failures known
Machines GS or Dakar
Location: Germany & Italy
Source : TBA
Court Action believed settled

2000 Jan to Dec Failure No F06
Machine GS or Dakar
Location: Michigan USA
Source : TBA
Accident Fell on a gravel road
Court Action Unknown

2001 January Failure No F07
Rider "Gertarg" Fork Failure
Machine 00 F650GS
History Purchased new, 5000 miles only 400 on dirt roads
Location Argentina RT 40
Accident Front axle detached from both forks on a straight dirt road
Witnesses Yes - bmwsportstouring.com member "killer" (Bob Palin)
Action BMW Informed - No NHTSA Report
Court Action: Apparently - Bob Palin indicates it was settled
Source: Initial bmwsportstouring.com forum post by "killer" - Bob Palin
Additional Source - F650.com - Posted May 2005
Contact: Yes - With witness "killer" (Bob Palin) & others
Information "Gertarg" was on tour of Argentina organised by Pancho Villa Moto Tours of Texas, now MotoDiscovery
22200 State Highway 46 West, Spring Branch, Texas 78070
Tour guide/leader identified - now works for BMW Germany

2001 Feb to Dec No other known Failures

2002 BMW redesigned LHS & RHS fork legs adding metal to axle mounts

2002 October BMW commenced fitting revised fork legs to machines in production

2003 September

Failure No F08
Rider Advrider Username WayneC1, Other Forums WayneC
Rider Name
Contact Info
Machine 02 F650GS Dakar, VIN
History Purchased used with factory warranty, 2940 kms, 3080 at failure
Location Australia
Accident RHS axle mount detached from fork, machine cartwheeled
Witness No, property Owner on scene 30 seconds later
Action BMW Informed
NHTSA Report - 5/10/08 - ODI 10244404
DOTARS report - 7/10/2008

Court Action: No
Source advrider forum member WayneC1
Contact Made Yes
BMW Action RHS lower fork only sent to Germany for metallurgy tests
BMW Denied knowing of any other failures

2004

Failure No F09
Rider BMW MOA Username jtussey
Rider Name
Contact Info
Machine 01 F650GS, VIN
History Purchased new, 1400 miles at failure
Location USA Michigan
Accident RHS axle mount detached from fork
Police Report Yes
Witness Yes, machine seen to wobble immediately prior to accident
Action BMW NA & AG Informed
NHTSA Report 26/12/08 ODI No 10252808

Court Action: Unknown
Source Proposed BMWCCA Article sent by UK Rider,
Article run in BMWRA newsletter OTL July 2004

Contact Made Yes
BMW Action BMW Denied knowing of any other failures - Denied Liability

2005 September 25

Failure No F10
Rider advrider forum member Giddyupgirl
Rider Name ?
Contact Info Contact via RedBaroness
Machine 01 F650GS, VIN - Not provided
History Purchased used Q1 '05, 6000 mls, 21,000 mls at failure
Location USA, IL - UTICA
Accident Dog ran out, rider fell, RHS axle mount detached from fork
Witness Yes
Action Repaired by Rockford BMW - BMW should have been informed
NHTSA report 2/10/09 - ODI 10280426

Court Action No
Source advrider forum
Contact Made Yes with both rider and a witness

2003 June 30	<p>Failure No F11 Rider Advrider & f650.com forum member cdnabn49 (Willy) Rider Name (Founder of http://adsmc.ca) Contact Info Machine 2001 F650GS - VIN History Purchased used, ? kms Location Canada Accident Yes, tar road, machine wobbled & rider fell Fault RHS Fork Leg failed Action NHTSA report 2/10/09 - ODI 10285955 Source advrider & F650.com Contact Made Yes - with rider. Notes Machine repaired by 30/7/2006</p>
2007 March 16	<p>Failure No F12 Rider GMR-Staffs Rider Name Contact Info Machine 00 F650GS, VIN History Purchased 10,000 miles, 22,000 miles at time fault found Location UK Accident No Details Found radial cracks around axle mount during maintenance Witness No Action NHTSA report Filed 29/11/08 - ODI No 10250116 Court Action No Source f650.co.uk forum - posted 8/3/2007 Contact Made Contact made & he has updated forums with his information</p>
2007 September	<p>Failure No F13 Rider Andy80 Rider Name Contact Info Machine 02 F650GS Dakar, VIN Unknown History Purchased new, 30000 miles at time of failure Location UK Accident Lost control entering a corner on sealed road. Felt bump on entry Machine writeoff "forks detached" - it seems only front wheel Witness No, Accident report to police Action BMW Insurance Claim - Payout £3000 - Machine Value £1500 Court Action No Source f650.co.uk forum Contact Made Yes, rider traumatised & unsure of accident cause</p>

2008 July 5 Failure No F14
Rider Advrider Forum name LoudAl (contact via Advrider only)
Rider Name Allan
Contact Info Contact via Advrider only – Lives in Beaverton
Machine 01 F650GS Dakar - Oregon Rego M5 14466
Location USA - Oregon - Just north of township of Bend
History Purchased used , ? miles
Accident Lost control on RHS corner on sealed road
Axle found detached from RHS fork
Witness Yes, Accident report to Local Sheriff
Action None
Court Action No
Source advrider forum
Contact Made Yes
Notes Al believes he made a mistake, his description / pics suggests not

2008 July Failure No F15
Rider Rider details withheld at rider request (contact via RedBaroness)
Rider Name
Machine 01 F650GS Dakar, VIN Unknown
History Purchased used , ? kms
Location USA
Accident Yes, bush track fall after hitting rock in track
Fault Front axle detached from RHS fork
Action None
Source redbaroness
Contact Made Yes, failure confirmed, may come forward to investigators

2008 August Failure No F16
Rider advrider forum member redbaroness
Rider Name
Contact Info
Machine 02 F650GS, VIN
History Purchased used, 26,000 miles, 30,000 miles at time of failure
Location USA
Accident Front axle detached from both forks on a straight sealed road
Witness Yes, Accident report to police
Action BMW Informed
NHTSA Report 5/10/08 - No 10238415
Court Action No
Source advrider forum
Contact Made Yes, rider and witness
BMW Action BMW NA denied knowing of any other such incidents

2008 September Failure No F17
 Rider advrider forum member sgk3
 Rider Name
 Contact Info
 Machine 02 F650GS Dakar, VIN
 History Purchased 5600 miles, approx 10000 miles at failure
 Location USA
 Accident Front axle detached from RHS forks on a straight unsealed road
 Witness No, Accident report to Local Sheriff ?
 Action BMW Informed ? NHTSA Report Oct 2008 - No 10245369
 Court Action No
 Source advrider forum
 Contact Made Yes, rider

2008 October Failure No F18
 Rider wilddogs forum member Usurper
 Rider Name
 Contact Info
 Machine 01 F650GS Dakar, VIN Unknown
 History Purchased used, ? kms
 Location South Africa
 Accident No
 Fault Different
 Fork oil weeping from crack in middle of RHS Fork Leg
 Action BMW SA & Dealer informed
 Source wild-dogs forum
 Contact Made Yes - with rider
 Note BMW SA tracked VIN to a machine previously written off

Date Unknown Failure No F19
 Rider UKGSer member "Foodle"
 Rider Name Nick
 Contact Info
 Machine F650GS 52 Plate, VIN Unknown
 History Purchased ?, ? kms
 Location UK
 Accident Yes, swerved to avoid another fallen rider, fel & fork failed
 Fault RHS Failure
 Action Unknown
 Source UKGSer forum
 Contact Made Yes, no further information received
 Note Machine was written off,

January 2010	<p>Failure No F20 Rider advrider member "gsbs" Rider Name Contact Info Machine 2002 F650GS Dakar, VIN Unknown History Purchased ?, ? kms Location US Accident Yes, hit from behind, machine went 200 feet & stopped, RHS fork failed machine has not slid on either side, no indication of hitting object Fault RHS Failure Action Unknown Source advrider forum Contact Made yes Note Machine was written off,</p>
June 2010	<p>Failure No F21 Rider advrider member "winemkr" Rider Name Contact Info Machine 2002 F650GS, VIN History Purchased Used, 27,000 miles, 42,000 at time of accident Location US, Washington State Accident Yes, RHS fork failed while negotiating a roundabout at 10 mph Fault RHS Failure Action NHTSA Report 24/10/10 - ODI No 10359375 Source advrider forum Contact Made Yes Note Minor instability in front forks noticed prior to accident</p>
October 2010	<p>Failure No F22 Rider advrider member "nagash" Rider Name Contact Info Machine 2001 F650GS History Purchased ?, ? kms Location Australia Accident No, Cracks found on both fork legs during maintenance Fault As above Action Unknown Source advrider forum Contact Made Yes Note Awaiting further information & filing DOTARS/NHTSA reports</p>

November 2010 Failure No F23
Rider UKGSer forum member Maz
Rider Name
Contact Info
Machine 00 F650GS, VIN Unknown
History Purchased used, ? kms
Location UK
Accident No
Fault LHS Fork cracked
Rode home with wheel off center & found crack cause unknown
Action Replaced forks, threw old ones away
Source UKGSER forum
Contact Made Not yet

November 2010 Failure No F24
Rider advider forum member AntiqueWidow
Rider Name
Contact Info
Machine 2011 G650GS, VIN Unknown
History Purchased new, 95 miles
Location US
Accident Yes
Fault RHS axle mount broken
Action NHTSA ODI Report 10409875
Source advrider forum
Contact Made Yes, with rider

Details Unknown Dealer Salvage Sale
Rider Name Radu Georgescu
Contact Info neserios@yahoo.com
VIN WB10182A52ZE47231
Machine GS 2001
History Purchased damaged from dealer with 6000 miles on it & rebuilt
for Sth American trip
Minimal damage - Rebuild cost \$US\$600
Source <http://www.b66ama.com/> (Radu's Trip Website)
Contact Made Yes
Note Dealer Details - Cycle Depot Corporation 1644 Colorado Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA (323) 254-6661

Details Unknown Ebay Sale
VIN WB10182A53ZE47635
Machine Black/Yellow GS 02/03
History 10,489 miles
Source EBay Sale
Note Salvage Machine, seller in Ellisville,MO

Details Unknown freewheelernm on AdvRider

VIN ?
Machine ?
History ?
Source AdvRider
Note Owner lives in southern NM, 3 hrs from Tucson or Abq
Was looking to purchase replacement forks

Details Unknown 2003 Post on f650.de

VIN ?
Machine ?
History ?
Source f650.de
Contact Attempted contact via manne.muench@t-online.de
Note Post was looking for info, seems GF's machine failed, spoke of
another for sale by a dealer also with broken fork.

Notes F650.com has reports from riders of "continually leaking fork seals"
One rider found LHS fork leg "not straight" internally, fork leg replaced.
It appears it may be "cast shrinkage" on internal of fork.

Australia . A 2001 F650GS was subject to salvage, wrecker confirmed RHS fork
damage as per list above.

Australia, Sydney based Loss Assessor advised has assessed 6 machines all had RHS
axle mount failures, described axle failure accurately without prompting, accident
causes not disclosed. Referred to Aust safety authority (DOTARS) for follow up

Machine for sale on consignment with the assessor had old LHS & new RHS fork legs.