Maintenance Fundamentals

Pre-ride Inspection

To ensure safety, it is your responsibility to perform a pre-ride inspection and make sure that any problem you find is corrected. A pre-ride inspection is a must, not only for safety, but because having a breakdown, or even a flat tire, can be a major inconvenience.

Before riding on-road, or returning to pavement after riding off-road, take a few moments to walk around your motorcycle and look for any loose parts or anything that appears unusual. Also check the following.

- Tire tread wear and air pressures are within limits. ⇒ P. 45
- Lights, horn, and turn signals operate normally.
- Check the condition of the drive chain. Adjust slack and lubricate as needed.

 P. 43, 67

- Throttle action moves smoothly without binding. ⇒ P. 76
- Brake lever and pedal operate normally.

Check the following items if you are carrying a passenger or cargo:

- Combined weight is within load limits.▶ P. 114
- Cargo is secured properly.
- Suspension is adjusted to suit load.
 P. 77

Check the following items after you get on your motorcycle:

- Refuel when needed. ⇒ P. 12, 26
- Engine stop switch functions properly.▶ P. 20

Check the following items at regular intervals:

 Oil level is between the upper and lower level marks.

▶ P. 53