



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 12-014
Date Opened: 06/14/2012
Investigator: Nate Seymour **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Wheel end failures

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: KAUFMAN TRAILERS, INC.
Products: 2011 Kaufman Flatbed Trailers
Population: 200 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Certain 2011 Kaufman trailers equipped with 10,000 pound axles may experience wheel-end failures.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

ODI was contacted by a fleet which operates two of the subject trailers. Within the first year of service the fleet had experienced multiple wheel-end failures on both trailers. Failures range from broken wheel studs to wheel-off events. Both trailers were used to haul identical backhoes, just as the other trailers used by the fleet do.

ODI visited the fleet and verified that the trailer gross and axle weights were within specified limits.

ODI has opened this investigation to further evaluate the cause of these wheel-end failures, assess the scope, frequency, and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

VOQ: 10407241