



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

May 2, 2006

GARETT CAROLUS
KEY EXPRESS DIVISION
KEYSTONE RV COMPANY
2642 HACKBERRY DRIVE
GOSHEN IN 46526

NVS-215
06V-145

Subject: AXLE FAILURES

Dear MR. CAROLUS:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
KEYSTONE/COUGAR/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-145

Mfg's Report Date: April 20, 2006

Components: SUSPENSION

Potential Number of Units Affected: 85

Summary:

CERTAIN TRAVEL AND FIFTH WHEEL TRAILERS MAY HAVE A DEFICIENT AXLE WELD JOINT BETWEEN THE AXLE TUBE AND SPINDLE.

Consequence:

THE SPINDLE WILL SEPARATE FROM THE AXLE TUBE AND THE WHEEL AND HUB ASSEMBLY WILL COME OFF THE VEHICLE WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THESE AXLES. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT KEYSTONE AT 1-866-425-4369.

Notes:

KEYSTONE RECALL NO. 06-069. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

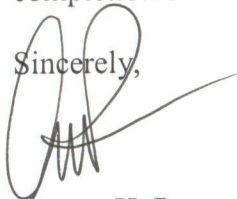
We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. Under the "What We Will Do" paragraph," a risk needs to be added. For example, "The spindle will separate from the axle tube and the wheel and hub assembly will come off the vehicle which could result in a crash without prior warning."

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during May 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before July 30, 2006.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement