



U.S. Department
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

February 28, 2008

MS. JESSIE GRIGSBY
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
KAFFENBARGER TRUCK EQUIPMENT CO.
10100 BALLENTINE PIKE
NEW CARLISLE OH 45344

NVS-215dgl
08V-083

Subject: FIFTH WHEEL LEVER PIVOT BOLTS/SAF-HOLLAND SIMPLEX

Dear MS. GRIGSBY:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Company's (K-TEC) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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:

K-TEC/INTERNATIONAL/2006-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-083

Mfg's Report Date: February 20, 2007

Components: TRAILER HITCHES: FIFTH WHEEL ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 129

Summary:

K-TEC IS RECALLING 129 MY 2006-2008 INTERNATIONAL CLASS 8 TRUCK TRACTORS EQUIPPED WITH SAF-HOLLAND SIMPLEX FIFTH WHEELS. THE LATCH LEVER PIVOT BOLT ASSEMBLY MAY HAVE BEEN OVER-TIGHTENED WHICH COULD DISTORT THE PIVOT BOLT SPACER SLEEVE. CORROSION OR CONTAMINATES IN THE PIVOT MAY CAUSE IT TO BIND AND PREVENT THE FIFTH WHEEL JAW FROM LATCHING SECURELY AROUND THE TRAILER KING PIN.

Consequence:

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE FIFTH WHEEL MAY FAIL TO LATCH WITHOUT THE DRIVER'S KNOWLEDGE. WHEN THIS OCCURS, THE DRIVER COULD DRIVE AWAY AND THE TRAILER COULD BECOME DISENGAGED INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

K-TEC IS WORKING WITH SAF-HOLLAND. SAF-HOLLAND WILL SEND A REPAIR KIT TO OWNERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MARCH 17, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT SAF-HOLLAND AT 1-888-396-6501 EXT. 4343 OR K-TEC AT 1-937-845-3804.

Notes:

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).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ07-007, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet all of the requirements of Part 577. Please make the following changes:

The first sentence should read: "This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act."

The second sentence should read: "Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Co. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain MY 2006-2008 K-Tec International Class 8 truck tractors equipped with SAF-Holland Simplex fifth wheels. Kaffenbarger has been notified by one of our suppliers...."

A risk needs to be added, i.e., "There is a possibility that the fifth wheel may fail to latch without the driver's knowledge. When this occurs, the driver could drive away and the trailer could become disengaged increasing the risk of a crash.

A reimbursement for prior repair paragraph needs to be added, i.e., "If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact K-TEC at...."

A sentence should be added concerning lease vehicles, i.e., "Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days."

Please add next to the last paragraph the Agency's information for further assistance, i.e., "We regret any inconvenience that this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety. If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. Enclosed is a copy of the quarterly report guide form for your use in filing this report.

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@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@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

Enclosure:
Quarterly Report Guide

Vehicle Safety Recall Quarterly Report Information¹

Required per 49 CFR Part 573.7

Report Date: _____ Calendar Quarter: _____

Safety Recall Quarterly Report from _____ through _____

Manufacturer: _____

Report Author: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Recall Subject: _____

1. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign Number: _____

Also, for completeness, if your company has assigned a code number to this campaign, please provide your code: _____

2. (a) The date notification to purchasers began: _____

(b) The date notification of purchasers was completed: _____

3. The Total Number of Vehicles Involved: _____

The total number of vehicles involved in the subject campaign (including all items sold or distributed to purchasers, dealers, distributors, and similar entities beyond the immediate control of the manufacturer/importer).

4. (a) Total Number Inspected & Remedied: _____

Total number of vehicles which were inspected and/or otherwise repaired or remedied.

(b) Total Number Inspected & NOT REQUIRING REMEDY: _____

Total number of vehicles involved in the recall and inspected, but determined to NOT REQUIRE REMEDIAL or recall repair work.

5. Vehicles Determined to be Unreachable

Total Number Exported: _____

Total Number Stolen: _____

Total Number Scrapped: _____

Total Number Unable to Notify: _____

Total Number Otherwise Unreachable: _____

Describe Other: _____

¹Any Questions please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler or Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.