



KAFFENBARGER TRUCK EQUIPMENT CO.

10100 BALLENTINE PIKE
NEW CARLISLE, OHIO 45344

PH: 937-845-3804
FAX: 937-857-9068

February 20, 2008

08V-083
(10 Pages)

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

RE INVESTIGATION # EQ07-007

Dear Mr. Person:

In response to your inquiry dated February 5, 2008, Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Co. ("Kaffenbarger") submits the following with respect to the above-referenced investigation (EQ07-007) into the safety defect identified by SAF-Holland, Inc. in its Simplex fifth wheels manufactured between January 3, 2006 and July 2, 2007.

Kaffenbarger purchased and installed 129 such units manufactured during that risk period. We did not receive notification of this defect, from SAF-Holland or otherwise, until we received your inquiry on February 11, 2008, after which SAF-Holland sent us defect notification *at our request*.

I have attached the following in response to this defect notification:

- A Defect Notification Report, compliant with the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6, included in which is a proposed schedule for conducting owner notification, following the guidelines outlined in NHTSA's February 5 request.
- A draft Owner Notification Letter, compliant with the requirements of 49 CFR 577.5.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, and fulfills our current obligations. We are aware that six quarterly recall status reports are required of us, and SAF-Holland has agreed to assist us in completing and submitting those reports.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessie Grigsby'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessie Grigsby
Director of Operations
(937) 845-3804

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On February 11, 2008, Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Co. ("Kaffenbarger") decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: February 19-2007 _____

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Co. 10100 Ballentine Pike New Carlisle Ohio 45344

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Jessie Grigsby

Director of Operations

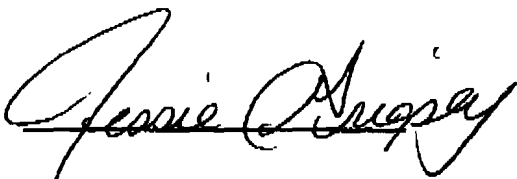
Telephone Number 937-845-3804 Fax No.: 937-857-9068

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Jessie Grigsby

Director of Operations

Signed:



¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Internationals Trucks **Model Years Involved:** 2006, 2007, 2008 **Model(s):** Class 8

Production Dates: Beginning: 06-03-06 **Ending:** 05-16-07

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: TT **Body style:** Truck Tractor Fifth Wheel

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Affected trucks are those on which Kaffenbarger installed the SAF Holland Simplex fifth wheel

Part # 4375532, a part which may be defective as reported by SAF Holland

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>CLASS 8 International</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>CLASS 8 International</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>CLASS 8 International</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>63</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 129

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: less than 30 %

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

The recall population includes all trucks on which Kaffenbarger installed the potentially affected SAF Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel. Kaffenbarger installed the potentially affected part on trucks (identified above) Between June 30 2006 and May 16 2007

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.
Per SAF Holland's notification (attached), on affected vehicles, the pivot bolt on the jaw release handle could be sticking

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Per SAF Holland, a spacer in the lever bar connection could affect the timing of the fifth wheel's Locking mechanism

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

If driver fails to properly check king pin hook up trailer could release from tractor fifth wheel

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Red latch indicator set in the proper locking location on the release handle recheck hook up

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

SAF Holland 1950 Industrial Blvd Muskegon Mi 49443-0425

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Pam Seeger Warranty Technical Supervisor 1-888-396-6501 Ext 4343

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Kaffenbarger was unaware of any defects until receiving a letter from NHTSA on 2/11/08, attached to which was the SAF Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel Field Campaign Notification EQ07-007. This is the first Kaffenbarger learned of the potentially defective part.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

The source of this defect is not in Kaffenbarger's shop. The supplier, SAF Holland, is providing repair kits to customers, free of charge, and has notified them of such. Kaffenbarger is also notifying our customers of the availability of repair kits and contact info for SAF Holland.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

See attached SAF Holland notification card marked as # 9

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.



SIMPLEX FIFTH WHEEL FIELD CAMPAIGN NOTIFICATION

This notification is to make you aware of a field campaign that SAF-HOLLAND is undertaking to replace a spacer in the lever bar connection that could affect the timing of the fifth wheel's lock mechanism. This is NOT a safety related issue as this condition is evident to the driver when visually inspecting the release handle and position of the red indicator in accordance with the proper coupling procedure.

The Simplex fifth wheels that should be inspected were manufactured between January 3, 2006 and July 2, 2007. Visually inspect the cover plate/lever bar connection on the underside of the fifth wheel. The fifth wheel is affected if a hex-head fastener is used to secure the connection as shown in Figure 1. The fifth wheel is unaffected if a pin is used to secure the connection as shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 1 - AFFECTED UNIT

HEX-HEAD BOLT CONNECTION

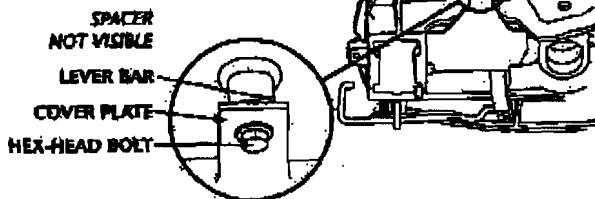
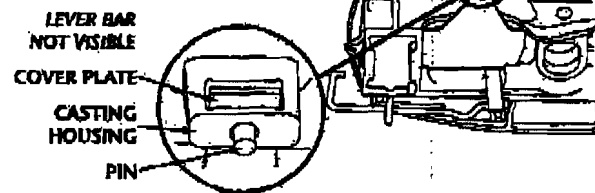


FIGURE 2 - UNAFFECTED UNIT

PIN CONNECTION



If you have a fifth wheel that matches the image in Figure 1, we strongly encourage you to contact us for a repair kit(s), free of charge, at (888) 398-8501 ext 4343. Be prepared to provide: serial number of the wheel, VIN # of the vehicle, date and service. If you have any questions concerning this notification, please ask for technical assistance when you contact us.

DM-FW013

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Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

SAF Holland has notified us that the potentially defective part was manufactured between 1/3/2006 and 7/2/2007. Kaffenberger installed this potentially defective part between 4-28-06 and 08-31-07. Kaffenberger no longer installs SAF Holland Simplex Fifth Wheels manufactured during the identified defect risk period.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

A. The date on which the search of vehicle owners will be initiated in order to compile the owner notification:
February 18, 2008

B. The approximate date on which the revised owner list will be available to initiate owner notification: March 15, 2008

C. The approximate date on which the owner notification will begin: March 17, 2008

D. The approximate date on which the owner notification will be completed: April 4, 2008

E. If notification will be staggered, give the beginning and ending owner notification date for each segment: All notifications will be sent out on the same date.

F. the approximate date on which the dealer notification will be complete: Only one dealer is affected by this recall, and Kaffenbarger notified this dealer on February 18, 2008.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.



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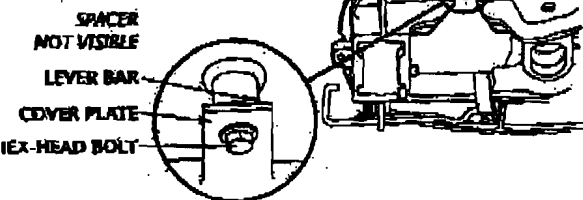
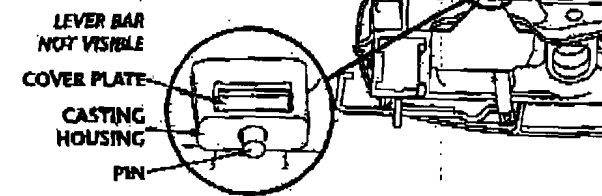


FIGURE 2 - UNAFFECTED UNIT

PIN CONNECTION



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NEW CARLISLE, OHIO 45344

PH: 937-845-3804
FAX: 937-857-9068

[date]

Owner Notification

Dear Customer:

This notice is written in accordance with the requirements of federal law regarding defects which relate to motor vehicle safety. Kaffenbarger has been notified by one of our suppliers, SAF-Holland, that some of its Simplex Fifth Wheels manufactured may have a defect which affects the timing of its lock mechanism. Our records indicate that you either are or were the owner of one of the following trucks on which we installed a potentially affected part.

POTENTIALLY AFFECTED VEHICLES:

[List of trucks with year/make/VIN/fifth wheel serial #]

We suggest that you verify your vehicle's VIN and fifth wheel serial number against the above list to determine which truck(s) in your possession might be affected by this recall.

REMEDY:

Attached to this letter is the notification we received from SAF-Holland, describing a visual inspection you should immediately conduct to determine whether or not your truck is actually affected by this recall. If it is, SAF-Holland will send you a repair kit free of charge. As indicated on the attached notification card, you should contact SAF-Holland at 1-888-396-6501, extension 4343. When you call, you will be asked for the serial number of the wheel and the vehicle's VIN.

Kaffenbarger apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this recall, and we thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that all defective fifth wheels affected by this recall are promptly and safely repaired.

Sincerely,

Jessie Grigsby
Director of Operations