



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 28, 2012

Mr. DANIEL EDDINGER
KAUFMAN TRAILERS, INC.
720 NORTH SILVER STREET
LEXINGTON, NC 27292

NVS-215ET
12V-410

Subject: Wheel End Bearing Failure

Dear Mr. EDDINGER :

This letter serves to acknowledge KAUFMAN TRAILERS, INC.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. 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:
KAUFMAN/FLATBED/2011

Mfr's Report Date: August 14, 2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-410

Components:
SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 302

Problem Description:

Kaufman Trailers (Kaufman) is recalling certain model year 2011 flatbed trailers equipped with 10,000 lb. electric oil bath axles. The wheel end caps on the oil bath axles can leak due to a cracked cap or a damaged O-ring.

Consequence:

The oil may leak out of the wheel end caps and if the condition is not corrected, the loss of oil could result in unexpected wheel bearing failure which may increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Kaufman will notify owners and will replace the affected wheel end caps and o-rings free of charge. The recall is expected to begin on September 5, 2012. Owners may contact Kaufman Trailers at 1-866-444-8971.

Notes:

Owners 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 www.safercar.gov.

This recall was the subject of a Preliminary Evaluation, PE12-014, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

We have received your proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please 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.

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at edison.thompson@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement