

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**<sup>1</sup>

On January 3, ~~2008~~, 2012 Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) ~~(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. XXXXXXXXX)~~ 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: January 27, 2012

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.

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp., One Industrial Complex, Nesquehoning, PA 18240.

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

John Terefinko, Senior Director - Engineering

Telephone Number: (570) 669-5154 Fax No.: (570) 669-9966

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Steven M. Cormier  
General Counsel

Signed:

  
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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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):** KME **Model Years Involved:** 2003-11 **Model(s):** AerialCat

**Production Dates: Beginning:** 7-2003 **Ending:** 8-2011

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** Fire Apparatus **Bodystyle:** Aerial

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

This recall involves only aerial fire apparatus that have hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls at the tip or platform (bucket).

**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. 55%**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
AerialCat	2003-2011	120

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 120

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** Not known

**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:**

Because the exact cause of the defect has not been determined, and since only vehicles with hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls at the tip/platform have exhibited the defect condition, KME made a determination to recall all vehicles that have hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls at the tip/platform.

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**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.**

Certain aerial fire apparatus that have hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls at the tip/platform have experienced unintended movement of the ladder upon activation of the dead man's switch at the turntable.

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

The cause of the defect has not been determined.

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

When an operator activates the dead man's switch at the turntable of a subject aerial truck, the ladder could move unexpectedly, posing a safety risk to individuals or property in the event that the operator fails to follow recommended procedures.

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

(a) There is no warning that precedes the occurrence of unintended movement of the aerial ladder; (b) Visual observation and/or physical sensation of movement will indicate an occurrence related to the defect.

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

Parker Hannafin Canada, Electronic Controls Division, 1305 Clarence Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 1T4

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

Marcel Colnot, engineer, Forest City, North Carolina - (828) 245-3233

#### **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.**

In September 2011, KME was notified by NHTSA/001 that it had opened a Preliminary Evaluation to investigate two occurrences of unintentional movement of the aerial ladder of KME trucks owned by the City of Allentown, PA. An investigation was conducted, including an examination of the trucks in Allentown on October 19, 2011, with subsequent analysis in an effort to determine the cause of the unintended movement. While we have not been able to determine the cause, we have determined that all trucks with the combination of hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls on the ladder are susceptible to this failure.

#### **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.**

All owners of KME aerial trucks having hydraulic controls at the turntable and electronic controls at the ladder tip/platform will be provided notice of the recall and advised to make their vehicles available for modifications to implement the remedy at no cost. Owners who have incurred any cost for addressing the defect prior to this recall will be reimbursed upon submission of documentation of same.

**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.**

The remedy consists of (1) adjusting the dead band setting of the electronic joystick controller to 10%; (2) modifying the controller program to lock out the aerial platform joystick control immediately in the event of the presence of a command signal upon activation of the dead man's switch; and, (3) modify the controller program to disable all platform aerial movement controls immediately upon activation of the dead man's switch at the turntable. Vehicles with the remedy cannot have unintended movement of the ladder upon activation of the dead man's switch.

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

The remedy assembly has controller program modifications that prevent unintended movement of the aerial ladder upon activation of the dead man's switch, whereas the recalled vehicles may be susceptible to such movement unless such modifications are made.

**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.**

Same as above.

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**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.**

All owners are expected to be notified by mid-February 2012, with all modifications associated with the remedy expected to be completed by mid-May 2012.

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## **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.**