



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 18, 2013

Mr. Jack Terefinko
Senior Director of Engineering
Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.
One Industrial Complex
Nesquehoning, PA 18240

NVS-215KS
13V-137

Subject: Air Brake Leakage may cause Brake Drag

Dear Mr. Terefinko:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.'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:

KME/PANTHER/2012-2013
KME/PANTHER II/2011
KME/PREDATOR/2012-2013
KME/PREDATOR SS/2012-2013

Mfr's Report Date: April 3, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-137

Components:

PARKING BRAKE:CONVENTIONAL:AIR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 40

Problem Description:

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. (Kovatch) is recalling certain model year 2012-2013 Predator, Predator SS, Panther, and model year 2011 Panther II emergency vehicles manufactured February 1, 2011, through February 28, 2013. These vehicles are equipped with Meritor axle assemblies that were built with disc brakes using MGM J24 series air brake chambers. In the affected axles, the brake chambers may leak pressure allowing the parking brake to drag when it is supposed to be released. Brake dragging could lead to overheated brake components.

Consequence:

Overheated brake components could result in a fire.

Remedy:

Kovatch will notify owners and will replace the actuators as needed, free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin in April 2013. Owners may contact Kovatch at 1-570-669-5132.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Kovatch's 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:

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 Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@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 long horizontal stroke at the end.

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