



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 16, 2013

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

NVS-215KS
13V-187

Subject: Steering Column Grease Fitting may Hinder Steering

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/ARFF/2010-2011
KME/PANTHER/2009-2013
KME/PANTHER II/2010-2013
KME/PREDATOR/2009-2013
KME/PREDATOR SS/2009-2013

Mfr's Report Date: May 2, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-187

Components:
STEERING

Potential Number of Units Affected: 695

Problem Description:

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. (Kovatch) is recalling certain model year 2009-2013 Predator, Predator SS, Panther; 2010-2011 ARFF; and model year 2010-2013 Panther II emergency vehicles. The grease fitting in the steering column shaft may get caught in the column cover. The grease fitting could tear the cover which will impact the driver's ability to steer the vehicle.

Consequence:

A sudden loss of steering control may increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Kovatch will notify owners and dealers will remove the grease fitting, free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin in May 20, 2013. Owners may contact Kovatch at 1-570-669-5132. Kovatch's recall campaign number is 2013-E01.

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:

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 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