

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

On April 3, ~~2008~~, ²⁰¹³ Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) ~~(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. XXXXXXXX)~~ 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: April 10, 2013

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 2013-01

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.

Jack Terefinko - Vice President, Senior Director of 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:



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): KME **Model Years Involved:** 2011-2013 **Model(s):** Predator, Predator SS, Panther, Panther II

Production Dates: Beginning: 2/1/2011 **Ending:** 02/28/2013

VIN Range: Beginning: 1K9AF428XBN058160 **Ending:** 1K9AF4283DN058522
Fire fighting

Vehicle Type: Apparatus **Bodystyle:** Pumper, Rescue, Aerial and Tanker

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

Recalled vehicles have Meritor axles manufactured between 11/23/2010 and 10/22/2012 equipped with Meritor DiscPlus EX225 Air Disc Brakes and Q Plus Cam Brakes that utilize certain MGM Type 24 J-Series Piston Parking Brake Actuators.

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. 6%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
Predator	2012, 2013	22
Predator SS	2012, 2013	12
Panther	2012, 2013	3
Panther II	2011	3

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 40

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 6%

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:

By letter dated April 3, 2013, Meritor, Inc. notified Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. ("KME") of its recall of all Meritor axles equipped with Meritor DiscPlus EX225 Air Disc Brakes and Q Plus Cam Brakes manufactured between November 23, 2010 and October 22, 2012, that utilize certain MGM Type 24 J-Series Piston Parking Brake Actuators ("Actuators"). KME identified all vehicles manufactured using axles equipped with the subject Actuators and that were manufactured by Meritor during the period indicated.

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.

The defect involves MGM Type 24 J-Series Piston Parking Brake Actuators installed on certain Meritor axles assembled between November 23, 2010 and October 22, 2012. The defect inadvertently allows for intermittent leakage of air past a seal in the Actuator. If insufficient air pressure exists, a spring within the Actuator becomes "uncaged" and applies force to the brake. Depending on the amount of leakage, the brake can drag while the vehicle is in service or prevent the wheel from rotating, thereby resulting in elevated operating temperatures and/or could result in wheel-end fire.

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

Meritor axles containing a defective Actuator allows for intermittent leakage of air past a seal in the Actuator. If insufficient air pressure exists, a spring within the Actuator becomes "uncaged" and applies force to the brake. Depending on the amount of leakage, the brake can drag while the vehicle is in service or prevent the wheel from rotating, thereby resulting in elevated operating temperatures and/or could result in wheel-end fire.

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

Depending on the amount of leakage, the brake can drag while the vehicle is in service or prevent the wheel from rotating, thereby resulting in elevated operating temperatures and/or could result in wheel-end fire.

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

None.

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

Meritor, Inc., 2135 West Maple Road, Troy, Michigan 48084.

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

Charles Smith, Director of Quality-North America (800-535-5560)

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.

6. On or about April 3, 2013, Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. received notification from Meritor, Inc. of
the recall of the axles supplied to Kovatch for installation in Kovatch vehicles.

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.

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. is working with Meritor , Inc. and will arrange for replacement of the Actuators and
any other affected components free of charge to the owner/customer.

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.

Replacement parts are currently available and will be provided by Meritor at no cost. Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. will obtain replacement parts and install same (as well as any affected components) at no cost to the owner/customer.

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

The remedied axle assembly does not contain the defective Actuator, which is replaced under the recall.

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.

Production remedy identical to recall condition remedy. Production date remedy was March 2013.

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.

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. expects to notify all affected customers on or before April 15, 2013. Vehicles containing axles with suspect Actuators will be inspected as soon as possible. If the vehicle contains a suspect Actuator, it will be replaced along with any other affected components free of charge.

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.