



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 11, 2016

Mr. Tim Carter
Kaufman Trailers
702 North Silver Street
Lexington, NC 27292

NVS-215MR
15V-863

Subject: Axles may Leak Oil and Bearings may Fail

Dear Mr. Carter:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kaufman Trailers'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/2016
KAUFMAN/WEDGE CAR HAULER/2016

Mfr's Report Date: December 19, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-863

Components:

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 55

Problem Description:

Kaufman Trailers (Kaufman) is recalling certain model year 2016 Flatbed and Wedge Car Hauler trailers manufactured September 11, 2015, to October 14, 2015, equipped with certain 10,000 lb dual wheel axle assemblies. The affected trailers were manufactured with mismatched axle hub and cone assemblies that may cause leaking bearing oil seals, thus resulting in wheel bearing failure.

Consequence:

Premature bearing failure may increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Kaufman has notified owners, and dealers will replace the affected axle assemblies, free of charge. The recall began on December 21, 2015. Owners may contact Kaufman customer service at 1-336-790-6817.

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.

It is our understanding that notification to owners began on December 21, 2015, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. Should it become necessary for Kaufman to do a renotification, the follow-up notification must be submitted to this office for review and it must comply with the requirements of Part 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision" and Part 577.10, "Follow-up notification."

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall 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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@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 the first name being the most prominent.

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