



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 13, 2016

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

NEF-150KS  
16V-271

**Subject:** Axle May Disconnect From Spring Hangers

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 EQUIPMENT TRAILER/2015-2016  
KAUFMAN/WEDGE CAR HAULER/2015-2016

**Mfr's Report Date:** May 3, 2016

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 16V-271

**Components:**

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 522

**Problem Description:**

Kaufman Trailers (Kaufman) is recalling certain model year 2015-2016 Flatbed Equipment and Wedge Car Hauler trailers manufactured April 1, 2015, to April 30, 2016. The lock nuts that secure the axle hanger to the springs may not have been properly crimped allowing the nut to loosen and detach during operation.

**Consequence:**

If the nuts were to fall off, the bolts could loosen, and the axle may disconnect from the spring hangers, shifting or detaching from the trailer and increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Kaufman will notify owners, and provide them with new Nylock replacement nuts, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in May 2016. Owners may contact Kaufman customer service at 1-336-790-6800.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received Kaufman'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).

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 Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto: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