



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 22, 2016

Mr. Chad Blackmon
Kaufman Trailers
702 North Silver Street
Lexington, NC 27292

NEF-150MR
16V-635

Subject: Spring Eye may Break Allowing Axle to Move

Dear Mr. Blackmon:

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/MINI CAR HAULER/2015-2016

Mfr's Report Date: August 30, 2016

NHTSA Campaign Number: 16V-635

Components:

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY
SUSPENSION:REAR:SPRINGS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 291

Problem Description:

Kaufman Trailers (Kaufman) is recalling certain model year 2015-2016 Mini 5-Car Hauler trailers, model FE-3/7K-44, manufactured July 1, 2015, to August 24, 2016. During use, the suspension spring eye may break, and allow the axle to slide back and forth.

Consequence:

If the axle is able to slide back and forth, the tires on the sliding axle can contact either the fender or the adjacent tire, adversely affecting handling and increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

The remedy for this recall is still under development. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. 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.

Please update your Defect Information report to include your remedy plan as soon as it has been determined.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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 required in Part 573.6(c)(6), in the case of a defect, please provide a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt. Please provide this information as soon as possible.

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

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,



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