



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 18, 2017

Mr. Chris Morrison
Warranty Manager
Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.
1 Industrial Complex
Nesquehoning, PA 18240

NEF-150KS
17V-527

Subject: Tie Rod may Loosen

Dear Mr. Morrison:

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/AIRPORT REFUELER/2016
KME/PREDATOR PUMPER/2016
KME/PREDATOR RESCUE/2016

Mfr's Report Date: August 28, 2017

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V-527

Components:

STEERING
STEERING:LINKAGES:TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 11

Problem Description:

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. (KME) is recalling certain 2016 Predator Pumper, Predator Rescue, and Airport Refueler vehicles, equipped with certain Dana Spicer steer axles. The castellated nut on the steer axles may not be properly torqued, allowing the tie rod to loosen.

Consequence:

If the tie rod loosens, it may disconnect from the steering knuckle, causing a complete loss of steering and increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

KME will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the torque of the castellated nut and tie rod, tightening is as necessary. If the nuts do not become properly secured and aligned after being adequately torqued, the dealer will replace the knuckle and tie rod end assemblies, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin October 12, 2017. Owners may contact KME customer service at 1-800-235-3928.

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 KME'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,

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