



Law Department

June 26, 2003

SENT VIA FACSIMILE (202) 366-7882 & E-MAIL

Attn: Mr. George Person

03V-234 ① of ②

Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)
Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: **Frame Access Grabhandle (Location)**
Kenworth Recall No.: 03KWS

Dear Mr. Person:

On June 19, 2003, Kenworth Truck Company determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles described below, and is furnishing notification to NHTSA in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

Description of the Defect

The frame access grabhandle on vehicles with vertical tail pipes is mounted approximately 8" to 10" too high. This issue only affects chassis with Caterpillar engines that have vertical tail pipes and an optional frame access package. From an investigation of the grabhandle location and review of industry standards, it was determined that the grabhandles were mounted too high and may limit the ability to maintain 3-points of contact at all times. This condition may cause a person to slip and/or fall and could lead to personal injury.

Identification of Affected Vehicles

Based upon a search of manufacturing records, the following vehicles are involved:

Kenworth models T600, T800, T2000, and W900 manufactured on March 24, 2001 and between November, 12, 2002 and April 30, 2003. Kenworth determined the recall population is comprised of 290 vehicles in total.

7356

Chronology of Events Leading to Recall

Kenworth Division Engineering received notification from Chillicothe Plant's Resident Engineering department on April 30, 2003 of the above condition. Upon receipt of this information, Engineering, Customer Service and the plant's Quality departments began an investigation of the documentation and process controls at our subassembly suppliers to determine the extent of the issue.

Description of Remedy

Kenworth will initiate a Safety Recall of all affected chassis. Kenworth will inspect the grabhandle location on all chassis and if determined to be mounted too high, the handle will be relocated to the proper height.

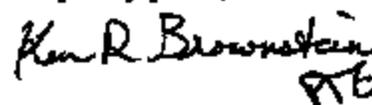
Reimbursement Prior to Recall

Refer to the general reimbursement plan submitted by PACCAR. The start date for the reimbursement period will be one year prior to issuing this notification, June 26, 2002. The end date for the reimbursement will be 10 days after the last mailing of the initial owner notification pursuant to 49 CFR 577.5.

Identification of Recall Schedule

Kenworth anticipates that the owner notification campaign will be initiated within 30 days. Kenworth's number for this campaign is "03KW5".

Very truly yours,



Kenneth R. Brownstein
Senior Counsel

KRB:ptg

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