



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 3, 2016

Mr. Tom Lilly  
Kaufman Trailers of NE, Inc.  
706 North Silver St.  
Lexington, NC 27292

NEF-150MR  
16V-764

**Subject:** Spring Eye may Break Allowing Axle to Move

Dear Mr. Lilly:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kaufman Trailers of NE, Inc.'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:** October 19, 2016

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 16V-764

**Components:**

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:NON-POWERED AXLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 125

**Problem Description:**

Kaufman Trailers of NE, Inc. (Kaufman) is recalling certain model year 2015-2016 FE-3/7K-44 Mini Car Haulers manufactured January 1, 2015, to August 31, 2016. On the affected trailers, the spring eye may break off the spring and allow the axle to slide back and forth.

**Consequence:**

If the axle slides back and forth, the tires on that axle may contact the fenders or the adjacent tires, possibly damaging the tires and increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Kaufman has notified owners and dealers will replace all of the springs on the affected trailers with a newly designed spring that has a thicker top leaf and rubber bushing with steel sleeve. The recall began on October 24, 2016. For help with this recall, owners may contact Kaufman at 1-336-790-2756.

**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).

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).

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.

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 a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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