

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 21V-905

**Manufacturer Name :** Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.

**Submission Date :** APR 14, 2022

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-905

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



### Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.

**Address :** One Industrial Complex  
Nesquehoning PA 18240

**Company phone :** 8002353926

### Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 41

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

### Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2021-2022 KME Predator Panther

**Vehicle Type :** BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

**Body Style :** OTHER

**Power Train :** DIESEL

**Descriptive Information :** -Population determined using serial numbers provided by Meritor.  
-Products not included in the recall were not identified by Meritor as having the potential defect.  
-2021 KME Predator Panther: 6  
-2022 KME Predator Panther: 12

**Production Dates :** NOV 06, 2020 - JAN 31, 2022

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

☐ Not sequential

**Vehicle 2 :** 2022-2022 KME Predator

**Vehicle Type :** BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

**Body Style :** OTHER

**Power Train :** DIESEL

**Descriptive Information :** -Population determined using serial numbers provided by Meritor.  
-Products not included in the recall were not identified by Meritor as having the potential defect.  
-2021 KME Predatorr: 2  
-2022 KME Predatorr: 3

**Production Dates :** DEC 13, 2020 - AUG 31, 2021

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2021-2022 KME Severe Service

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : -Population determined using serial numbers provided by Meritor.  
-Products not included in the recall were not identified by Meritor as having the potential defect.  
-2021 KME Severe Service: 6  
-2022 KME Severe Service: 12

Production Dates : APR 16, 2021 - OCT 31, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

### Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Meritor drive pinion 180 series fractured in the spline.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If this condition exists, the fracture of the pinion may hit the brake drop hose which may unintentionally apply parking brake without detection or brake lights coming on, possibly resulting in a crash.

Description of the Cause : There was a variation in the pinion spline tooling geometry of the Meritor process.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The issue could occur without warning.

### Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Rear Axle Carrier

Component Description : Pinion Shaft

Component Part Number : 180 Series

### Supplier Identification :

#### Component Manufacturer

Name : Meritor

Address : 22021 Skyway Church RD

Maxton North Carolina 28364

Country : United States

## Chronology :

June 2020 – Pinion crack found on campus in Charlotte during a different PSR.

August – September 2020 - They completed tests to attempt to replicate and could not reproduce the fracture. Implemented 100% mag particle inspection on all 186R series. Meritor Product Engineering provided a high confidence level that this would be an infancy failure (during the carriers first high load event) due to the fracture signature.

April 2021 – Claim created through standard warranty process for pinion crack.

July 2021 – Pinion failure during delivery to the dealer from the plant. Facilitated warranty claim through Meritor, they provided new gear set.

September 2021 – Houston reached out regarding a pinion crack failure while in service (24 hours in service and under 3,000 miles), was second truck of fleet with similar failure. Pinion broke off and damaged the spring brake air supply line. Metro and Houston insisted an inspection method to validate that the rest of the fleet do not have the same failures. This resulted in Meritor completing an on-site ultrasonic test for the rest of the fleet. Meritor provided corrective action and containment dates, as well as their assessment that this issue is low risk.

October 2021 – Spartan risk assessment completed.

October – November 2021 – Reviewed past precedence. Reached out to all REV Fire businesses to check for any Meritor pinion warranty issues. E-One had one failure in the field in October 2021 but a different axle series affected. Met with Meritor to review the cause again and the potential affected population.

November 2021 – Escalated the issue to REV Group Management. February 14, 2022 - Meritor expanded the date range of affected population. February 21, 2022 - Meritor provided remainder of information for KME to determine additional population. April 4-7, 2022 - Meritor expanded the date range of affected population and provided remainder of information for KME to determine additional population.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Meritor will work with the repair facility to replace the Differential Carrier Housing Assembly. The repair will take approximately 5 hours to complete. There is no cost to the vehicle owner for the recall remedy. Meritor is providing, free of charge, the necessary components to rectify the issue and will pay labor costs for replacing the included components that have not already been replaced during normal maintenance.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** N/A

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** Meritor has implemented containment in their production facility as of April 20, 2021 and corrective action of tooling implementation as of August 2021.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified: 12/20/2021-12/23/2021  
Owners will be notified: 01/03/2022-01/07/2022  
Schedule for additional population added 2/2022:  
Dealers will be notified: 04/04/2022-04/08/2022  
Owners will be notified: 04/11/2022-04/15/2022

Planned Dealer Notification Date : APR 04, 2022 - APR 08, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 11, 2022 - APR 15, 2022

\* NR - Not Reported