



For:

April 2000

- RTA Inspectors, Vehicle Regulations
- RTA Motor Registry Managers
- AIS/AUVIS Examiners
- AIS/AUVIS Proprietors
- Engineering Signatories

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Cracking in Heavy Vehicle 'I' Beam Steering Axles

Background

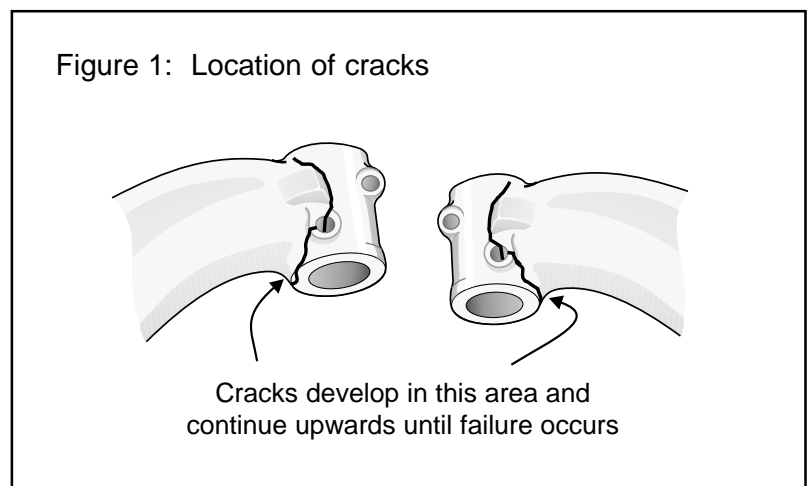
The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has been advised of cracking in a number of Rockwell heavy vehicle steer axles which has led to their failure. The axle models are the FF901, the FF 921 and the FF 931 which can usually be found on older model vehicles of American origin, including Diamond T, Dodge, International, Leader, Kenworth, White and Ford. The Ford vehicles affected include pre-1990 LNT8000, LNT9000, LTL9000, LTS8000, and LTS9000. Some very early LN700, LN7000, and LN8000 models (1975 to 1982) may have been also fitted with axles of a similar design from the same manufacturer.

Inspection Procedure

Determine whether:

- the vehicle is a make and model referred to above, or
- the steer axle is a make and a model referred to above.

If either is the case, thoroughly inspect both ends of the axle for cracking in the areas shown in Figure 1.



Enforcement

1. RTA Inspectors

If one or more cracks is detected in the steer axle:

- Issue a **major-grounded defect**, affix a **red** *defective vehicle label* to the vehicle and instruct the driver/operator to:
 - i. have the vehicle towed or floated to a place of repair, and
 - ii. not drive the vehicle until the fault is rectified.

- Prepare a breach report.

2. AIS and AUVIS Examiners

If one or more cracks is detected in the steer axle:

- Issue a 'White slip' indicating a dangerous defect, in accordance with the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations.

- Instruct the driver/operator to:
 - i. have the vehicle towed or floated to a place of repair, and
 - ii. not drive the vehicle until the fault is rectified.

- Contact the RTA if the vehicle is driven from the premises rather than towed or floated.

FURTHER INFORMATION

RTA Blacktown:

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PO Box 558
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Tel: (02) 9830 5555
Fax: (02) 9831 0913

RTA Wollongong:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
104 Market Street
PO Box 5398
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Tel: (02) 4226 7007
Fax: (02) 4225 8844

RTA Newcastle:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
59 Darby Street
Locked Bag 30
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Tel: 1 800 049 920
or (02) 4924 0240
Fax: (02) 4323 9905

RTA Parkes:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
PO Box 334
PARKES NSW 2870

Tel: 1 800 809 388
Fax: (02) 6861 1496