Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (inc)

SAFETY ALERT
02 - 2018

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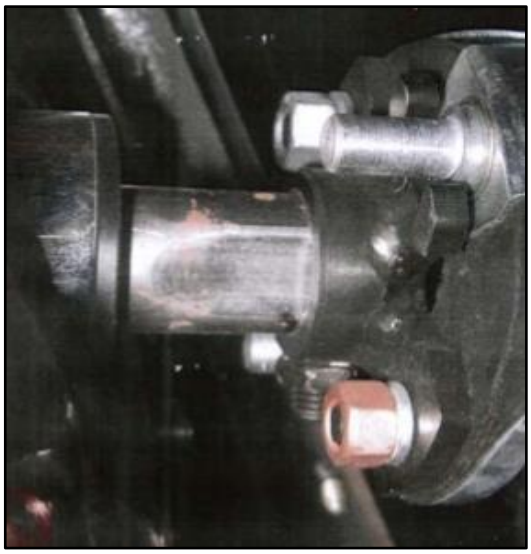
‘CPP’—brand Steering Couplers

During a certification inspection, an LVV Certifier identified a welded steering coupler branded as ‘CPP’ (Classic Performance Products). The coupler was found to be manufactured with multiple welds, which is an engineering practice disallowed by Chapter 6 ‘Steering Systems’ of the NZ Car Construction Manual.

Aftermarket steering couplers must be carefully inspected to confirm that no welds are present.

The vehicle in this case was a 1957 Chevrolet, which had been fitted with a ‘CPP’-brand power steering box, and an ‘Ididit’-brand steering column with a one-inch shaft. The steering coupler was hard to see in position as it was tucked up underneath the brake booster, but on closer inspection it was found that the coupler incorporated a central boss with a series of ‘fingers’ welded on to it (see images above).

Chapter 6 ‘Steering Systems’ of the NZ Car Construction Manual disallows welding of any steering components except in the case of specified and approved situations.



As a rule, the NZ Car Construction Manual states that welding is not permitted within any ‘critical’ steering components. Any welding allowed for is restricted to situations where no other option is available. This is not one of those situations as a one-piece replacement component can easily be manufactured.

Close inspection of all aftermarket steering couplers must be carried out. If a welded coupler is identified, a one-piece replacement must be fitted before it can pass LVV certification.