

MD Alignment

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The content of this bulletin reflect my opinion and the feedback from our customers on the subject discussed unless otherwise credited. You are free to agree or disagree with it.

CONTACT ME

If you have comments or suggestions with regard to this or any of our bulletins, contact me at:
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Problem: Irregular wear on steer and front drive axle tires on a group of 2015 year model trucks equipped with Dana Axles.

Prior to my arrival several discussions had been conducted and alignment measurements had been done on all vehicles involved in this issue. The measurements were done using a current model Hunter computerized alignment system and the suspect measurements were confirmed with manual measurements.

These measurements showed that the basic alignment settings were well within factory specs with the exception of toe on the front drive axle. In my experience normally these axle will have a toe of zero (0) plus or minus 1/8 inch on new housings. On housings with 500,000 to 1,000,000 miles toe out is more common with amounts up to 1/4 inch. Amounts in excess of that cause significant tire wear issues.

On this particular group of trucks the toe on the rear diff housings fell within the expected range. However the front diff housings ranged from 3/16 inch toe out to 1/2 inch toe out with only 3 housings measuring less than 1/4 inch of toe out.

These measurements are completely outside my experience on new trucks and are more in line with what we find on vehicles that have been wrecked.



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Dana has provided one new diff housing and that will be installed in one of the vehicles today or tomorrow. Since Dana and Navistar are both aware of the severity of the issue at this fleet I hope that the issue will be resolved shortly.

On the larger scale, I am concerned that these vehicles are not the only ones in North America with this issue and strongly urge that toe measurements be made on the front and rear diffs of 2014 and newer vehicles equipment with Dana axles so that a more accurate appraisal of the size of the problem can be made. I am notifying shops that MD Alignment does business with about this issue and am asking them to make these measurements and report the results.

As more information is forthcoming I will let you know.

Michael L Beckett
President.

