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Infosheet 2.07

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Citroen Xantia and XM: potential safety problem

Situation

This Infosheet contains advice to vehicle inspectors and inspecting organisations carrying out an inspection of a Citroen Xantia or Citroen XM. There have been failures in the front upper suspension rubber insulating block mounting (oleo-pneumatic suspension leg) of Citroen Models Xantia & XM (see Figures 1 and 2).

While there haven't been many failures, they have the potential to be a serious safety issue.

The following information relates to reason for rejection item 13 b) on page 9-1-3 (Steering and suspension systems) in the Vehicle Inspection Requirements Manual (VIRM): In-service Certification.

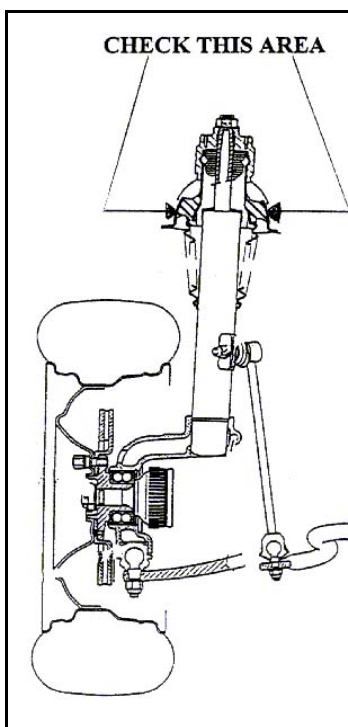


Figure 1: Citroen Xantia front suspension indicating rubber insulating block subject to separation of bonding to metal or shearing through of the rubber block.

Clarification

It is believed that allowing the vehicle to operate with low gas pressure in the suspension can contribute to the problem. The failures may be more likely to occur where vehicles have operated in warmer countries before they came to New Zealand

The failure can be:

- separation of the rubber bonding to the pressed metal casings
- shear of the rubber block material.

Refer to figures 3 and 4

Note that it would be almost impossible to check for deterioration or failure from above, so extra care must be taken to identify deterioration or failure when inspecting the component from underneath the vehicle.

Action

If presented with a Citroen Xantia or XM vehicle, the vehicle inspector must fail the vehicle if any sign of deterioration or failure of this component is detected during the inspection.



Figure 2: Citroen Xantia upper mounting viewed from under bonnet.



Figure 3: Citroen Xantia rubber mounting in separated (failed) condition.



Figure 4: Citroen Xantia rubber mounting assembly in separated (failed) condition.



Figure 5: Citroen Xantia upper suspension mounting viewed from underside with protection gaiter removed to allow for better inspection.

Infosheet series

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