



Vehicle Safety Inspection Program Bulletin

ASED-021

Date: January 01, 2019 (Original Special Order Issued 11/05/1998)

Bulletin: All Inspection Station Personnel

From: Automotive Safety Enforcement Division

RE: **Inspection of Ball Joints**

Ball joint inspection is conducted using manufacturer procedures and specifications according to 11.14 Vehicle Inspections. Some manufacturers specify rejection of the component if the rubber boot is torn, while others make no mention of rejection for torn or missing boots. When inspecting ball joints a missing or defective boot may not be cause for rejection of the ball joint during inspection unless specified as a failure by the manufacturer.

Serviceable Ball Joints - have a grease fitting for periodic lubrication and can be serviced by adding grease which also ejects dirt and moisture from the ball joint. Unless the manufacturer specifies, do not reject missing or torn boots during inspection of serviceable ball joints.

Sealed, Non-Serviceable Ball Joints - do not have provision for periodic lubrication which to lubricate and eject dirt, water, and other foreign contaminants from the ball joint. Due to this, many manufacturers specify component replacement if a boot is missing or torn. These boots may be rejected if the manufacturer specifies to do so.

*If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact ASED at:
410-768-7388 or MSP.ASED@maryland.gov*