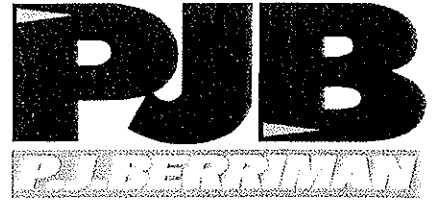


The Mechanical Engineer in Charge

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## **PRODUCT INFORMATION BULLETIN**

### **STEERING COLUMN INTEGRITY**

#### **APPLICABILITY**

PJB Minecruisers and Nippers.

#### **BACKGROUND**

A PJB Minecruiser was being driven along a mine roadway. The vehicle struck a large bump. The resulting jolt caused the operator to apply a force to the rim of the steering wheel sufficient to cause the wheel and the steer shaft to lift out of the steer valve resulting in loss of steering.

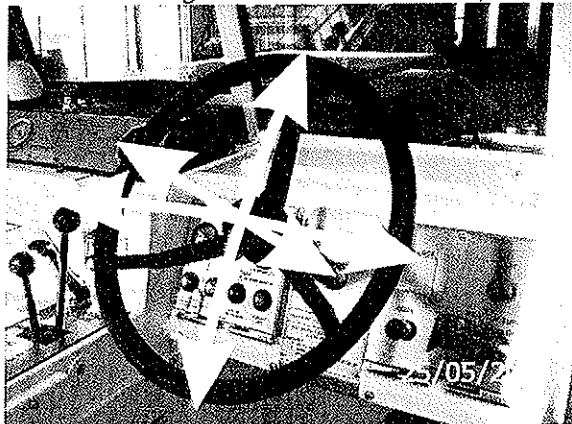
Subsequent inspection has revealed the bearing in the wheel end of the steering column had collapsed. It is not known whether the bearing had collapsed prior to the vehicle striking the bump or as a result of the force applied by the operator.

The manufacturer of the steering column advises the steering column should not be exposed to an axial force greater than 1kN (=100kg). The bearing is not designed to be maintained or replaced and is sealed for life.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

PJB recommend the following:

- 1) Inspect for play in the bearing on a yearly basis by gently shaking the steering wheel in the directions shown below. If significant play is detected the steering column should be replaced.



- 2) Always drive to the road conditions.