



This Service Information bulletin supersedes SI 32 04 05 **dated November 2005**.

NEW designates changes to this revision

SUBJECT

Replacement of Steering Gear Due to Accident Damage

MODEL

NEW All

SITUATION

Impacts due to accidents or similar driving conditions can cause damage to steering boxes or racks. It may be extremely difficult to diagnose internal damage to steering boxes or racks which otherwise appear undamaged externally.

A thorough internal check of steering gears is generally not economically feasible. However, damage to other related components can be taken into consideration when deciding whether a steering gear must be replaced.

CAUSE

INFORMATION

The steering gear does **NOT** have to be replaced if:

- There is no visible damage to front axle parts such as spring struts, hubs or spindles, control arms or wishbones, thrust or tension rods or stabilizers performing a locating function, steering drop arms or Pitman arms, track rods or drag links, tie rods, front axle subframe, steering column, and attachment points for suspension components to body.
- There is no binding or increase in turning effort when operating the steering gear from lock to lock with engine off.
- The impact has not caused the wheel alignment to become not adjustable within specified tolerances using normal adjustment procedures.

NEW The steering gear **MUST** be replaced if:

- There is visible damage to the steering gear, including blackening or discoloration of the housing from fire damage.
 - Electric steering gear (EPS) version: Examine the control unit with all plug connections for damage and hairline cracks.
- There is any permanent deformation or cracks on:
 - Wheel rims in the event of a negative result from the wheel/axle alignment check
 - Spring struts, steering stubs, wheel carriers
 - Wishbones
 - Struts, trailing links or the anti-roll bar with this function
 - Body side screwing/attachment points for wheel guide control components
 - Front axle support
 - Pitman arms

- Tie rods
- Steering box fixtures
- Steering column

NEW The steering column **MUST** be replaced if visibly damaged, deformed or broken.

If a recommended replacement with the criteria described above is refused by the customer or insurance company, this should be noted in the repair order and signed by the refusing party.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Not applicable.

[Copyright ©2015 BMW of North America, Inc.]