Michelin Technical Bulletin

March 1, 2022

MICHELIN® Energy Skirt Guard Bracket Head Cracking

This bulletin describes:

- The components and potential damages to the Energy Guard Bracket Assembly
- Periodic Inspection Guidelines
- The Warranty & Claims Process

On the Energy Guard Skirt system there are brackets (Figure 1) that hold the skirt panel to the trailer. It has been found that the aluminum bracket head attachment could develop fatigue cracks during usage. If cracks do occur, they tend to initiate at the top of the bracket head attachment, near the interface with the skirt panel (Shown in Figures 2 and 3). If cracks are observed, it is recommended to remove the bracket assembly from service and replace it with new bracket assembly and new hardware (see warranty process below). The installation procedure for a new bracket assembly can be found in the Energy Guard Owner's Manual.

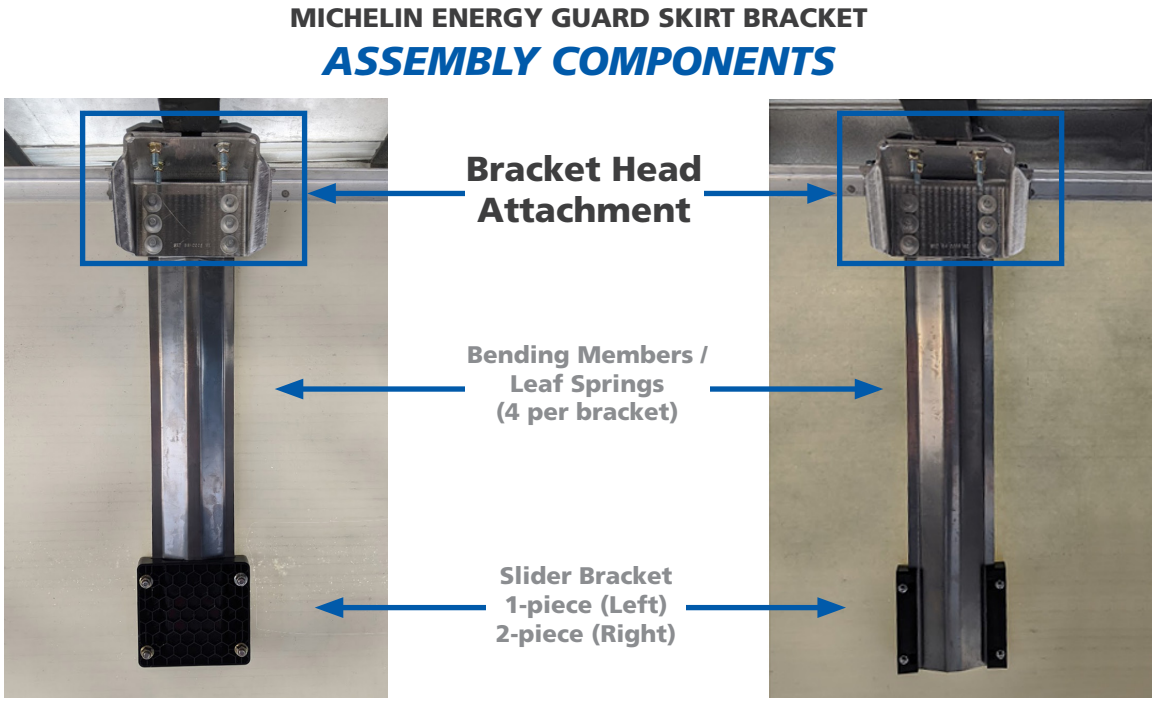


Figure 1. Bracket Assembly Description

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MICHELIN ENERGY GUARD SKIRT BRACKET

BRACKET HEAD CRACKING



Figure 2. Example of head unit cracking along radius

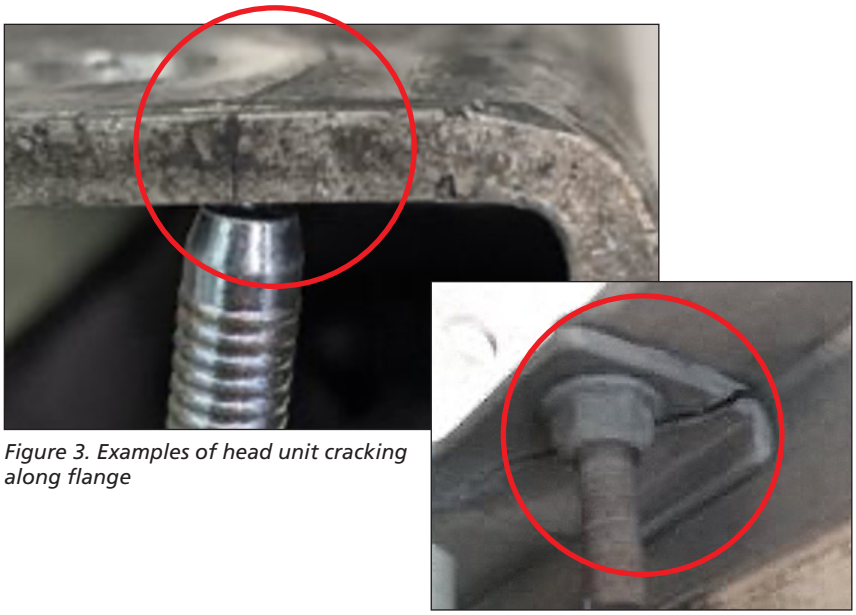


Figure 3. Examples of head unit cracking along flange

MICHELIN ENERGY GUARD SKIRT BRACKET

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Michelin recommends the following inspection and maintenance guidelines as defined in the MICHELIN® ENERGY GUARD INSTALLATION GUIDE AND OWNER'S MANUAL See business.michelinman.com/ (need link and have added to website) for more information.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Inspect the Michelin Energy Guard Solution components prior to each trip and as part of regular periodic maintenance practices.
- Utilize the post installation checklist provided in the owner's manual to supplement fleet specific periodic maintenance practices.

In addition to the recommendations in the owner's manual it is requested to inspect the bracket attachment area, bending member and sliding member of the skirt bracket assemblies for the following:

- Proper installation of fasteners, beam clamps, slider bracket orientation, and mounting hardware
- Loose or missing components
- Signs of premature wear including heavy abrasion, cracking, deformation and/or corrosion

WARRANTY

- Michelin Energy Guard Aerodynamic kits are covered under the MICHELIN® ENERGY GUARD AERODYNAMIC SOLUTION LIMITED WARRANTY.
- Consult the Energy Guard Owner's manual for details. (link here)
- If you have a claim, please contact your Michelin Consumer Care Representative at:(888) 971-3803.

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