

Safety Inspection for Rust Damage

Visual Inspection of Suspension and Related Parts

Affected Models: All Models

Affected Departments: Management, Service, & Parts

In areas where snow and ice accumulate on the road, certain city, county, and state road departments commonly use salt or similar chemicals to melt the snow and ice to improve road conditions. These road chemicals can cause rust damage to a vehicle's chassis and suspension components after the vehicle was driven on these roads. Rust can also occur when driving in areas near bodies of salt water like oceans, bays, and ports.

Rust damage to suspension can be superficial or can progress to the point that it causes a structural defect in the part making the vehicle unsafe to drive. For this reason, it is important to regularly inspect a vehicle for rust damage to identify unsafe conditions and advise the customer of any necessary repairs.

Inspections for rust should always be completed prior to performing recalls or maintenance on the vehicle. If a rust damaged component requires replacement and will inhibit the completion of the recall, the replacement of the rusted part should be completed prior to the recall as a customer-pay repair.

Rust damage repairs to a vehicle are not covered under any Suzuki warranty or recall campaign.

Vehicle owners are responsible to authorize repairs and then pay for part replacement expenses due to rust damage.

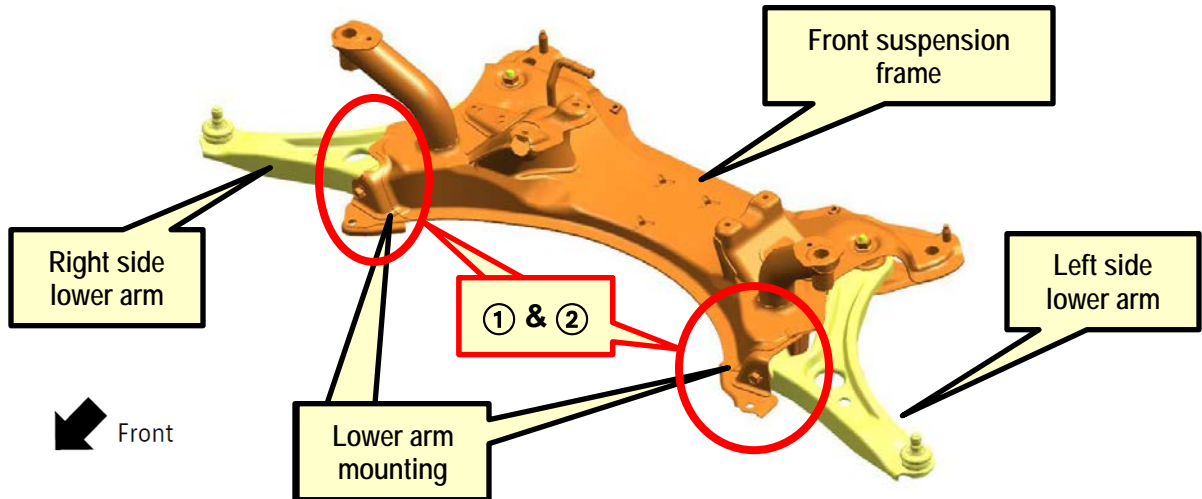
INSPECTION PROCEDURE

- 1) Raise the vehicle on a hoist to facilitate the inspection.
- 2) Inspect the condition of the suspension components and mounting points visually, or by lightly tapping with an inspection hammer. Be extremely careful not to cause additional damage to the rusted part making it unusable.
- 3) If the component has a thin wall or hole due to rust, or it makes a dull sound when tapped with an inspection hammer, advise the customer to replace the rusted part with new one.
- 4) If the component has rust, but does not have thin walls or holes, then an application of a protective undercoating can be applied over the rust.

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PRIORITY INSPECTION POINTS (AREAS CIRCLED IN RED)**Front Suspension**

- 1) Lower arm mounting bracket of the front suspension frame, welded bracket part and its related parts ①.
- 2) Welded part of the lower arm and its related parts ②.

**Rear Suspension**

- 1) Trailing arm mounting bracket on the rear axle housing, welded bracket part and its related parts ③.
- 2) Brake hose mounting bracket on the rear axle housing, welded bracket part and its related parts ④.
- 3) Welded portions of the trailing arm and related parts ⑤.

