

## Information Alert 19

12/11/2012

Dear Operator

### **Adjustable Draglinks & Ball Joints on Vehicles**

#### **ISSUE:**

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is aware of a safety concern in relation to Hino buses which have adjustable Draglink components.

In a recent incident involving the failure of the steering draglink, it was found that although the vehicle had been maintained to the manufacturer's standards there was still an amount of wear and tear to the ball joint within the draglink. It was found that as the cup was missing from the ball joint, elements such as dirt and water deteriorated the ball joint causing failure to the steering.

RMS would like to advise operators who operate vehicles with adjustable draglinks should implement steering testing into their maintenance schedules. One testing procedure is:

- A technician to vigorously move the steering wheel from side to side,
- A technician to inspect all the joints whilst the steering wheel is being moved,
- Any wear movement should be assessed and the appropriate action taken.

It should be noted that this incident may not be isolated to the Hino product as all buses have drag links and ball joints that can wear or have potential capabilities to be opened to water and road dirt ingress.

#### **NOTICE:**

This notice is to inform operators of the above findings, so they may consider the issues and the requirement for continuous inspections of adjustable draglink components on all buses.

**Peter Wells**  
**Director**  
**Customer and Compliance**

**Roads & Maritime Services - Compliance and Regulation**

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