

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

## TRI-FUNCTIONAL® BUSHINGS

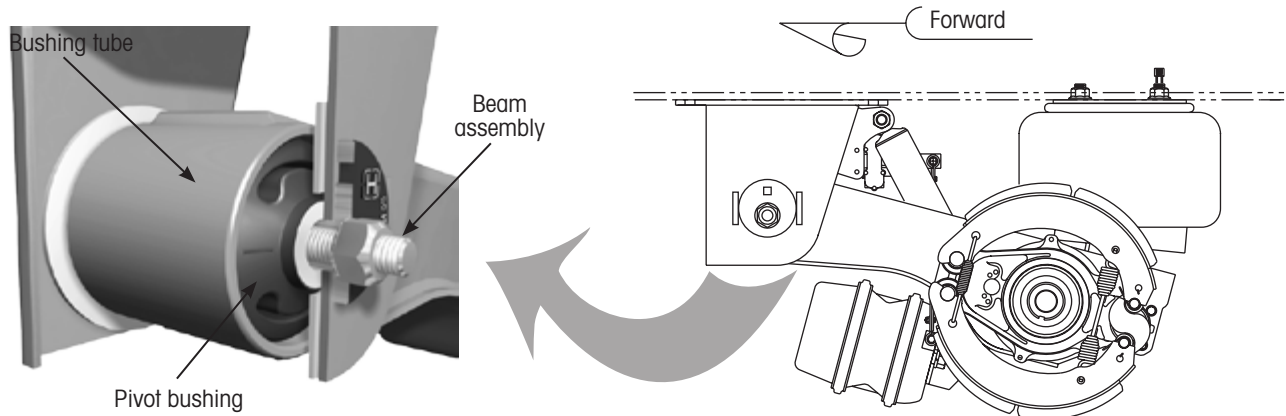
**SUBJECT:** Pivot Bushing Inspection Procedure

**LIT NO:** B106

**DATE:** August 2015

**REVISION:** C

Periodic inspections are an important part of your air suspension maintenance routine. Of particular importance is the pivot bushing, which is housed within the beam assembly bushing tube. All such inspections should include an evaluation of all pivot bushings on the trailer.



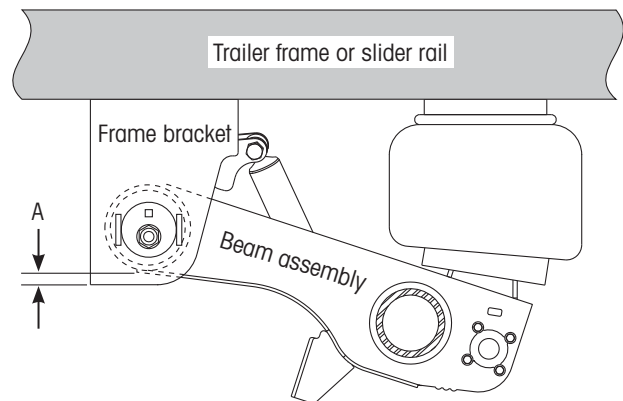
Hendrickson does not recommend disassembling the pivot connection to inspect the pivot bushing. The recommended procedure is to make a measurement as follows. On an unloaded trailer, measure from the bottom of the beam assembly to the bottom of the frame bracket as shown below.

**NOTE:** Trailer must be unloaded.

SUSPENSION TYPE	A	
	Inch	mm
ULTRAA-K	1 1/8	28.5
HT, INTRAAX & VANTRAAX	3/4	19

If **A** is less than or equal to the above specified value: the bushing is **OK**.

If **A** is greater than the above specified value: the pivot connection must be disassembled and the beam assembly lowered to more closely inspect the bushing. Refer to [Figure 1](#) on next page.



**Failure to follow this procedure will void warranty coverage.** If necessary, refer to Hendrickson publication [L427 Bushing Replacement Procedures](#) for pivot connection disassembly instructions. With the beam assembly lowered, Hendrickson recommends inspecting the pivot bushings, bushing tube spacers, bushing tube and interior surfaces of the frame bracket. Refer to Hendrickson publication [L750 Bushing Tube Spacer Inspection / Replacement Procedure](#) for inspection instructions.

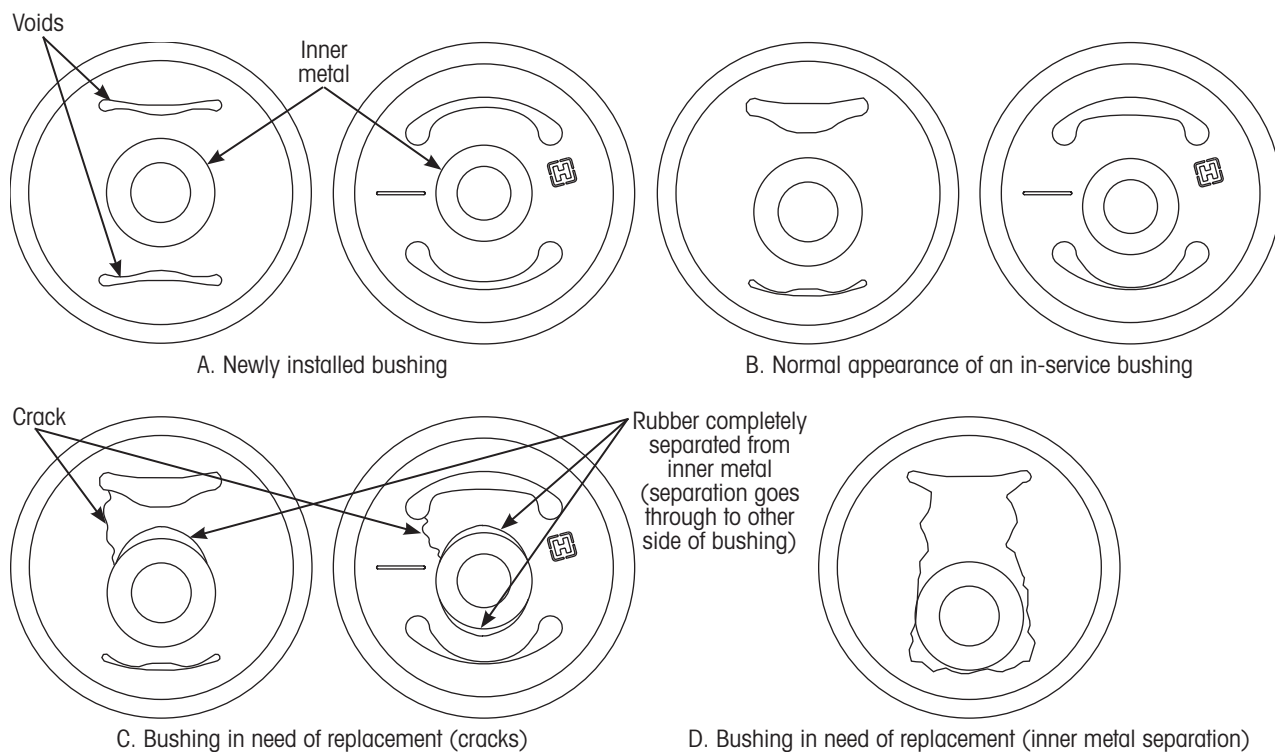


Figure 1: *Bushing evaluation guide*

Pivot bushings will typically “settle” in the vertical direction upon suspension installation. It is normal for the voids to have this “settled” appearance (illustration B) due to cargo and the weight of the trailer loading the bushing. However, cracks in the rubber extending between the void and the bushing’s inner metal or an excessive amount of vertical movement (illustrations C and D) are indications that the bushing needs to be replaced. If conditions similar to C and D are found, replace the bushing. For warranty consideration, per [L583 Comprehensive Warranty Statement, Required Claim Information](#); include **a digital photograph of the bushing in the bushing tube** for preliminary review and send out replacement parts. The photo must be taken before removing the bushing from the bushing tube. The removed bushings will need to be returned to Hendrickson for further review and also consideration for labor reimbursement, if applicable.

Refer to Hendrickson literature number [L427 Bushing Replacement Procedures](#) for bushing replacement instructions. Also at this time inspect the bushing tube and interior surfaces of the frame bracket for wear. Refer to Hendrickson literature number [L750 Bushing Tube Spacer Inspection / Replacement Procedure](#) for bushing tube and frame bracket inspection / replacement instructions.

**NOTE:** The practice of using a long pry bar to determine if the bushing is defective is not recommended, because a normal (non-defective) bushing will move and provide a false indication of the bushing’s condition if enough force is exerted with the pry bar.

For any questions, contact **Hendrickson Trailer Technical Services** in the United States and Canada at 866-RIDEAIR (743-3247) or [HTTS@Hendrickson-intl.com](mailto:HTTS@Hendrickson-intl.com); in Mexico at +52 (442) 296-3600.

Call your trailer dealer or Hendrickson at **866.RIDEAIR (743.3247)** for additional information.



[www.hendrickson-intl.com](http://www.hendrickson-intl.com)

**TRAILER COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SYSTEMS**

2070 Industrial Place SE  
Canton, OH 44707-2641 USA  
866.RIDEAIR (743.3247)  
330.489.0045 • Fax 800.696.4416

**Hendrickson Canada**

250 Chrysler Drive, Unit #3  
Brampton, ON Canada L6S 6B6  
800.668.5360  
905.789.1030 • Fax 905.789.1033

**Hendrickson Mexicana**

Circuito El Marqués Sur #29  
Parque Industrial El Marqués  
Pob. El Colorado, Municipio El Marqués,  
Querétaro, México C.P. 76246  
+52 (442) 296.3600 • Fax +52 (442) 296.3601