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Service Tips and Best Practices

2017-2013 Mazda Sedan & SUV Steering Rack Spacer Identification

Brand	Supreme	Product	Tie Rod End	Date	November 2022
Part Number(s)	MS76720/MS76721				

During an inner tie rod end replacement service on the below noted applications, it is important for the Professional Technician to note both the correct location and installation clearance of the steering rack spacers.

Application(s):
2016-2014 Mazda 3 (Japan built and with a production date before June 23, 2016)
2017 Mazda 3 (Japan built and with a production date before December 23, 2016)
2016-2014 Mazda 3 (Mexico built and with a production date before September 3, 2016)
2017 Mazda 3 (Mexico built)
2016-2014 Mazda 6 (production date before June 30, 2016)
2017 Mazda 6 (production date before December 23, 2016)
2017 Mazda CX-5 (production date before December 21, 2016)

To address complaints of "knocking" noises when the steering wheel is fully turned towards the left (driver's) side while the vehicle is in motion, the OEM introduced a field repair, wherein steering rack spacers are utilized to prevent contact between the steering rack and inner tie rod end. Refer to Mazda Technician Service Bulletin 06-001/19 and any subsequent revisions for full and complete details.

For a successful repair outcome, adhere to the following:

- Inspect spacer for wear and or damage. Do not reuse if wear or damage are discovered during replacement service. Order new spacer from OEM.

Installation Location

- The shapes of the driver side and passenger side spacers are different. See **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**.
- Both sides of the spacers are the same. There is no Front or Back side of each spacer.
- Ensure the relevant spacer is placed in the correct location.



Figure 1. Driver side spacer

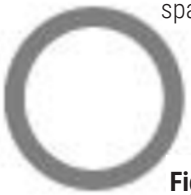


Figure 2. Passenger side spacer

Installation Clearance

- During re-assembly, it is essential that the proper installation clearance is achieved. The spacer must be slid over to contact the ball joint portion of the inner tie rod end with zero clearance. Refer to Mazda Technician Service Bulletin 06-001/19 and any subsequent revisions for full and complete details on installation clearance.
- Ensure not to pinch the spacer between steering rack and inner tie rod end during fastening.

Always ensure to refer to the factory service manual for correct diagnostic procedures, component removal and installation methods and fastening torque values and procedures where applicable. Only use a calibrated torque wrench for final fastening.

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