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Service Tips and Best Practices

Correct Diagnostic Procedure for 2003-2019 Sprinter Van Front Lower Ball Joints

Brand	Supreme/TTX	Product	Ball Joints	Date	February 2021
Part Number(s)	MK7455/MS25516/TXK7455/TXMS25516				

The Dodge/Freightliner/Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 2500 & 3500 van platform features a front suspension design wherein the front lower ball joints are in constant compression, even while the van is raised and the front wheels off the ground.

Due to this design, it may be possible to incorrectly diagnose ball joint wear. The traditional method of raising or jacking the lower A arm and prying on the knuckle to measure axial (up and down) "play" is not applicable and may show visible movement which is not relevant to a correct diagnosis. The traditional method also may cause damage to the ball joint dust boot.

To correctly diagnose ball joint wear on Sprinter vans, it is important to adhere to the following:

- Ensure to reference original factory service manual for proper diagnostic procedure and all related specifications and values. Additionally, it is advised to reference Mercedes-Benz TSB LI33.00-N-066643 for further information.
- Raise the van until the front wheels are no longer in contact with the ground. Use the correct center jacking point.
- While the vehicle is being raised, observe and measure by hand **lateral (side to side)** play in the ball joint(s). Lateral movement exceeding 3mm requires ball joint replacement.
- Tools are not required to inspect ball joint dust boot. If the boot is damaged, replace ball joint.

Always ensure to follow the correct diagnostic procedure as outlined in the service manual, as this will prevent misdiagnosis and unnecessary repairs.

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