

32 01 88 (828)

Steering gear replacement after accident damage

All series

Situation:

In an accident or in driving situations that resemble an accident, sudden loads on the steering gear can result in various types of damage. If the steering gear appears to be undamaged from the outside, it may be difficult and complex to detect such damage. However, it constitutes an unacceptable risk for the vehicle because it could lead to the steering system failing.

As it is not usually feasible to conduct a comprehensive check of all steering gear components due to the disproportionately high complexity, the condition of other components that are easier to examine must be checked as a substitute.

Procedure:

The steering gear, including the track rods on both the left and right, must be replaced if any of the following points is applicable:

- Visible or otherwise detectable damage on the steering gear
- Impermissible increase in torque and a seizing of the steering gear when the steering wheel is turned from stop to stop (without hydraulic assistance)
- Permissible tolerances for wheel alignment exceeded
- Fire damage

Damage, lasting deformation or fractures to:

- Wheels, if result of wheel alignment is negative
- Suspension struts, steering knuckle, wheel carriers
- Wishbones
- Struts or diagonal members or stabilizers with this function
- Bolting points for wheel guidance elements on body
- Front axle carrier
- Steering arms
- Track rods
- Steering gear mountings
- Steering column

These guidelines are binding for all accident repairs on BMW and MINI vehicles.

Note:

If the steering gear has to be replaced for reasons of safety but this is rejected by the customer or insurer for reasons of cost, this must be certified and signed by the party bearing the cost of the accident repair.

A sample for such certification is given in Enclosure 1.

Important:

Safety components whose function is impaired could cause the vehicle's type approval to be invalidated!