

## Technical Bulletin

### Taper Roller Bearings

**AL-KO International would like to make you aware of a product support issue on Japanese Taper Roller Bearings.**

Following some consumer and servicing dealer enquiries, AL-KO International P/L has sought advice from two Japanese Taper Roller bearing manufacturers (NSK & NTN Bearings) as to whether discoloration of the bearing cup and or rollers of the cone should necessitate bearing replacement.

The response from NSK (also agreed by NTN) highlights that discoloration does not necessitate the bearings being replaced. A copy of this response is enclosed.

Bearing replacement should only occur if pitting of the cup or rollers of the cone are evident.

Servicing technicians may feel bearing replacement is still warranted.

AL-KO International P/L acknowledges this is an issue on which the bearing manufacturer and the servicing technician may have differing opinions.

Should a servicing technician make a decision within the warranty period of an axle assembled and manufactured by AL-KO International P/L to replace bearings, then AL-KO International P/L requests that the bearings be **returned to AL-KO International P/L** within 7 days of replacement and the bearing supplier will then be requested to advise if replacement was necessary and warrantable..

If this is supported by the bearing manufacturer then AL-KO International P/L will replace the bearings free of charge to the servicing dealer and pay a reasonable labour cost of replacement.

Should the bearing manufacturer deem the bearing did not warrant replacement, then AL-KO International P/L will not be responsible for the replacement or labour costs incurred.

**For more information, please contact AL-KO International Customer Service on email – [info@alko.com.au](mailto:info@alko.com.au)**

**Memo: Running band on raceway**

**18/01/11**

To whom it may concern,

AL-KO International Pty Ltd came to NSK with concerns of discoloration on the inner and outer ring of NSK tapered roller bearings.

NSK Australia sent these bearings overseas to our technical centre for analysis. A series of checks were performed:

- Dimensional and Characteristics.
- Roundness measurements.
- Surface roughness checks on the inner and outer rings and rollers.
- Grease spectrum.

The investigation found no abnormalities. The bearings were found to be in good operating condition and well within NSK's specifications. Running bands can be common when the bearing is subject to an external load. The discoloration will have no effect on the life of the bearing therefore no need to change out the bearings.

Please refer to the following page for the running band examples.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

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