



ASRF Australian Street Rod Federation TAC

ADVICE SHEET 2/20 28/12/20

Urgent Warning- Aftermarket Steering Arms for Early Fords

It has recently come to our notice that some Street Rod “Early Ford Steering Arms” manufactured and sold under the “Vintage Restoration Parts” brand and resold by others such as “Johnny Law Motors” (previously Hoffman- Helix) are made from **Cast Iron**.

This is a very dangerous practice; as road shock and fatigue will result in sudden part failure and total loss of control of the vehicle.

All critical suspension parts such as spindles, steering arms, pitman arms etc should be manufactured from ductile materials such as Forged Steel or Stainless steel and never from brittle materials like Grey Cast iron or SG Iron.



At this time, we are unsure whether these were sold through Johnny Law Motors when they were trading in Australia or only from US sources.

We also note misleading online adverts which say “Vintage Restoration Parts steering arms are made from the highest quality of **steel** and CNC machined for a perfect fit ever time.

Then further on they specify that they are **cast iron**.

At this time, we don’t think any other manufacturer has copied this practice, hopefully not.

Below please see the result of when one of these breaks; being cast iron they suffer from a brittle fracture, with no warning.



If you believe your vehicle may have “Vintage” Brand steering arms fitted DO NOT drive under any circumstances.

If you are unsure and wish to do a test, you will find that drilling a small hole (in a non-important place) will bring out spiral swarf in steel parts and crumbly iron in cast parts. However, the “Vintage” brand cast in is enough to be certain that these are in fact the cast iron type.

It’s important that every one of these dangerous parts is recalled so don’t hesitate to pass this onto your fellow rodders, particularly those who have a 28 to 34 Ford beam axle front suspension, either on the road over the last few years or under construction.

Drive safely from ASRF TAC Committee