

**SAFETY ALERT**  
**Kit Car Steering Column Shafts**

There have been many incidences where poorly-constructed steering column shafts have been found in imported scratch-built vehicles. Two vehicles were identified by an LVV Certifier as having these dangerous shafts which incorporate poor-quality welds that have been ground down.

All non-OEM steering shafts and columns must be inspected and confirmed as being one-piece. Any welded steering column shafts cannot be LVV certified.

The first vehicle was a South African-built 1995 Birkin Lotus 7 replica. The shaft was constructed of thin-walled square-section tube (19mm x 1.4mm) which is not adequate from a strength point of view. The attaching welds were of very poor quality and had been ground down.

The second vehicle was a UK-built SS Jaguar replica. This shaft comprised two shafts of slightly varying sizes which had been welded together and appeared to have a spigot. There was also a collar, which had been welded to the shaft to allow for a steering lock, which could potentially be hiding other faults.



All non-OEM steering shafts and columns must be inspected and confirmed as being one-piece. For more information relating to the correct manufacture of steering columns, see Chapter 18 - Attachment Systems and Chapter 7 – Steering Systems of the NZ Car Construction Manual.