

SAFETY ALERT
Counterfeit Steering Wheels and Quick Release Boss Kits

LVVTA are becoming aware of the increasing number of sub-standard and counterfeit vehicle components that are being imported into New Zealand. While some products are purely cosmetic and do not offer any safety risk, an increasing number of steering wheels and steering boss kits are available both online and locally that pose a very real safety risk to road users.

LVVTA have investigated a range of these components and found many design and quality issues. There's also concern that some of these components are potentially being sold locally as genuine items leaving the owner completely unaware that they're sub-standard counterfeits. Of the various items LVVTA has inspected, some arrived in boxes that appeared to be genuine, however, upon close inspection the products themselves are clearly low-quality replicas. The concern with low-quality steering wheels is the strength of the materials used in their construction. The steering wheels inspected by LVVTA has a large amount of flex due to the sub-standard metal being used – something that could easily result in the metal fatiguing and the steering wheel breaking over time. LVVTA are confident that one of the wheels inspected did not contain a full metal ring, due to the large amount of flexibility it offers.



Steering boss kits or hub kits are also an area of concern with many local sellers offering low-quality counterfeits manufactured from unknown material grades. The New Zealand Car Construction Manual strictly prohibits the welding of steering components. While most genuine brand or high-quality items feature no welding, the replica items often include welding as to reduce the cost of the manufacturing process. In some instances, LVVTA believes the quality of weld to be so poor that component failure is inevitable.

LVVTA are warning prospective purchasers of steering wheels and steering boss kits that the old saying of 'you get what you pay for' is very correct. LVV Certifiers have been informed to keep an eye out for these components, and should they deem them unsafe, will be unable to certify vehicles fitted with them.

LVVTA recommends modifiers ensure they are only purchasing genuine steering components.