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Agency of Transportation

Reconditioned and / or Remanufactured Wheels

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One of the trends we are seeing is an increased use of reconditioned and / or remanufactured wheels. A vehicle's wheel is "reconditioned" or "remanufactured" when, after its original manufacture, it has been subjected to re-machining, repainting, chroming, welding, bending, straightening, hammering, shaping, reforming, removing material other than minimal cosmetic sanding or adding new material other than cosmetic coatings.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is of the opinion the use of a reconditioned and / or remanufactured wheel(s) is a potential safety issue and the vehicle owner should be notified of such. A vehicle owner should be informed of the potential safety risk of placing such a wheel on their vehicle. It is our recommendation any wheel intended for replacement or use on a motor vehicle should be inspected closely if it is reconditioned and / or remanufactured and contains any of the following:

- 1) Cracks;
- 2) Corrosion, scrapes, gouges, dents or other damage that cannot be corrected with cosmetic sanding or polishing;
- 3) Refinishing that changes or will change the wheel's shape, contour, styling or other design features;
- 4) Refinishing that alters or will alter the wheel's rim flanges, wheel nuts, wheel pilot holes or other functional surfaces;
- 5) Refinishing that leaves or will leave paint, clear-coat or other coatings on the wheel's mounting surfaces or on wheel nut contact surfaces;
- 6) Refinishing that involves cure temperatures above 350 degrees;
- 7) Chrome plating (either re-plating or chrome plating a painted wheel).

It should be noted this bulletin does not change or alter sections 2.1 through 2.4 of the Vermont Periodic Inspection Manual. This bulletin is meant as a safety advisory and recommendation only.