



LOOSE WHEELS

Date:

TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK

Presenter:



This week's Training Tip is provided by Richard Robinson, Ontario Ministry of Transportation

This loose set of wheels had loose fastener indicators but looking at just the indicators, everything looks perfectly fine to go for a drive (ignoring the completely missing/broken stud and the washer burn from the wheels bouncing around....). This was found by one of our officers in Niagara:

Those who have gotten me on the subject of loose fastener indicators such as these know that I have never and will never support them. In my experience as an officer and commercial vehicle inspector for over 20 years now, I find they give drivers a false sense of security and promote complacency. Drivers will walk by glancing at the indicators, seeing that nothing has moved, and move on.

Truth is wheels can become loose without the fasteners turning. If this driver would have done it "the old fashioned way" and actually grabbed the fastener and more so the washer, they would have detected the loose wheel fasteners and given the opportunity to call service and have it repaired before becoming an imminent safety hazard on our highway.



There was also a noticeable gap between the rims.

I have also found cracked rims hiding behind these types of indicators (and also the "bling" that gets put into hubs and fasteners), another downfall of using them.

I won't say don't use them. There is nothing in regulation that prohibits their use. However, if you are going to use them on your vehicles, please ensure your drivers are aware that they do not detect all causes of wheel fastener failures. No tools needed; just a hand and visuals. Wheels need to be properly checked as part of daily inspections. Best way for a driver to do that is to actually grab the fasteners and look between the wheels - regardless if indicators are present or not.

Check your wheels. Save a life. Luckily this one was caught before it could take a life.

TTSOA has great instructors that have so much to offer, including great tips for the week. If you have ones to share, contact TTSOA President Philip Fletcher at philip@ttsao.com.

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