

Service Information No. 16/06

Date: 29.12. 2006

Vibration Damper Camshaft Safety Check

12 M 43

All camshafts of the a.m. engines are equipped with one vibration damper at the opposite flywheel end (see attached sketch).

Unfortunately we experienced few damages on these dampers due to overheating which led to a deflagration inside the crankcase. As a result all pressure relief valves in the crankcase doors were actuated as requested without allowing any further gas emission into the engine room.

However in consideration of the foregoing we cannot exclude a risk of personal injury. Therefore any unnecessary presence in the surrounding area of the running engine has strictly to be avoided.

Despite of intensive investigations the root cause is not identified yet completely. Until the root cause is identified the following safety checks have to be carried out immediately:

- Visual inspection of the vibration damper surface for partial discolouration (black caused by oil carbon deposits or yellow to blue caused by overheating. See pict. 1).
- Deformation of the side walls of the dampers housing (see pict. 2).
- Check welding seams for cracks (see pict. 3).
- Check crankcase for residues of viscous fluid as indicator for cracks.



pict. 1



pict. 2



pict. 3

Please contact immediately your local dealer if one or more of the above described items are detected.

The defective dampers must be replaced. It is strictly forbidden to carry out any works on the dampers themselves.

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Remark: Even if only one damper is found defective both dampers must be replaced.

In case an immediate stop for inspection is not possible the following periodical checks have to be carried out:

Check the cover plate in the area of the damper for abnormal high temperatures and compare it to the temperature at the flywheel end side by using available tools (e.g. infrared thermometer or equivalent).

We strongly point out that the operation of the engine will be to the sole responsibility of the operator if the checks are not carried out.

