

Technical Bulletin: FA2098 Ball Joint Inspection

December 2012

Duralast Part No. FA2098 Press-In Ball Joint Inspection

Applications affected: All vehicles using ball joint part number FA2098:

Ford Taurus (1996-2007), Lincoln Continental (1995-2002) and Mercury Sable (1996-2005)

Description: This platform employs a spring-loaded ball joint, by OE design and subsequently aftermarket design(s). This means the ball stud can be compressed within the housing of the joint when new (by overcoming the resistance of the spring).

Technicians / Customers that are not aware of this design can misinterpret any vertical movement as wear. This ball joint is allowed a radial displacement of up to .032", or .813mm in metric. Measurement is taken between lower control arm and steering knuckle.



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Complaint: Some customers suspect premature wear in ball joint due to radial "play" in the housing of the ball joint. Complaints may reference early wear shortly after installation.

Solution: Proper inspection of ball joint is required.

FA2098 Ball Joint Inspection Procedure:

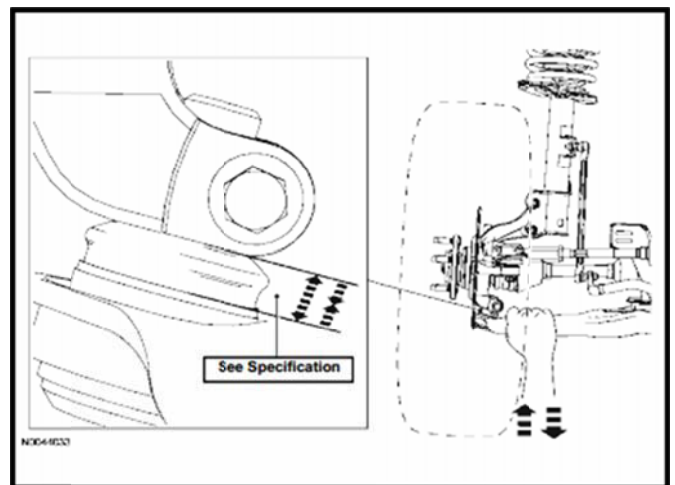
Refer to image shown below.

1. Prior to checking for ball joint deflection, inspect for wheel bearing "play" and correct as necessary.
2. To minimize the error in the measurement the dial indicator should be aligned as close as possible to the ball joint centerline.
3. ***Use Hand Force Only.** The use of tools or equipment can cause damage and relative movement that may not exist when using hand force only.

IMPORTANT:

If procedures are not followed correctly, it is possible to get a false measurement resulting in unnecessary part replacement.

NOTE: Image is representative.



SPECIFICATION:

Part is allowed .032 inches / .8mm deflection (movement) using hand force only.