

# Worrying results in European shock tests

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26<sup>th</sup> 2005

A major shock absorber test being conducted by Monroe across Europe is delivering some worrying results.

To date, more than 16,500 vehicles have been tested by Monroe technicians working in Italy, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. Initial results show that 47% of all vehicles tested with an average of 111,000kms driven have seriously worn or damaged shock absorbers.

The worst offenders were found in Germany where, of all the vehicles tested between January 2004 and March 2005, 52.38% - more than one in every two – were found to have one or more defective shock absorbers.

Because shock absorbers work to maintain tyre contact with the road, worn shock absorbers mean the risk of accident may be increased during evasive manoeuvres or emergency braking.

Peter Small, Product Manager for Monroe Australia, said the European results were being “closely analysed” for their possible implications for the Australian market.

“Shock absorber replacement rates in Australia indicate to us that there are hundreds of thousands of vehicles on our roads with well over 100,000 kilometres of wear on their shock absorbers,” said Peter.

“If we look at the European results, it shows that an alarming number of cars in Australia could be riding on worn or damaged shock absorbers. The fact that Australian roads are of poorer quality than the roads in Europe also leads us to believe that Australian cars with over 100,000kms of wear would be in an even worse condition than the ones found in Europe

“Vehicle owners need to be aware that most shock absorbers are due for replacement at 80,000kms of wear but should be tested at each major service regardless of vehicle mileage.”

A fleet of eight Tenneco Automotive test vans is travelling across Europe, stopping at garages to allow motorists to have their shock absorbers, springs, exhaust systems and catalytic converters checked free of charge as part of the company’s **Testing Days on Tour** program.

The vans are operated by Monroe and Walker technicians and contain some of the latest diagnostic tools, including shock tester, gas analyser, opacimeter, mounting tools

## MEDIA INFORMATION



and a Walker endoscope which allows drivers to literally see into the heart of their exhaust system.

“The majority of consumers are unaware that the role of a shock absorber is to literally keep the tyre on the road. Since shock absorbers wear out progressively, drivers tend to adapt their driving style to compensate for deterioration when cornering or braking,” said Hari Nair, Managing Director of Tenneco Automotive Europe.

“We want to encourage drivers to keep their shock absorbers and exhausts in the best possible condition so we’re taking advanced diagnostic systems and expertly trained technicians directly to the customer.”

The Testing Days on Tour program is a long-term initiative that is planned to last until 2009 with the dual objective of educating drivers on the contribution of shock absorbers to safe driving and supporting installer testing initiatives.

*Tenneco Automotive is one of the world’s largest producers and marketers of ride control and exhausts systems and products. Tenneco Automotive manufactures products under the Monroe, Walker and Lukey brands at its facilities in Clovelly Park and O’Sullivan’s Beach, Adelaide.*