

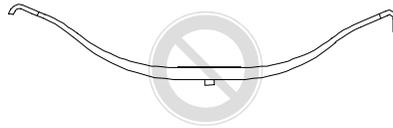


215 N. Patterson Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802

HUTCHENS INDUSTRIES, INC. SALES and ENGINEERING BULLETIN

December 19, 2000

DISCONTINUATION OF 360-00 SINGLE LEAF SPRING



Hutchens Industries, has decided to discontinue recommending the 360-00 high-arch single-leaf spring for use in its suspension systems. The spring contributes heavily to premature wear and failure of certain suspension components, and the problem has worsened as trailers and chassis have grown longer and heavier. Expenses related to the use of these springs now constitute a disproportionate share of warranty cost for our company, the spring manufacturers, the trailer and chassis builders and the end users. We strongly urge manufacturers to complete any orders using this spring as quickly as possible and to expect production of the spring to cease as of March 1, 2001.

Alternative springs include the 324-01 two-leaf spring; the 354-00 three-leaf spring; or, perhaps, the 363-00 low arch single-leaf spring. If you need clarification or additional assistance in this regard, please contact Hutchens Engineering or Customer Service departments at 1-800-654-8824, or your Hutchens sales representative.

Thank you!