

## ***RAFNA TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN No. 157***

### **R-290 Rear Railgear Interference on GMC/Chevy Vehicles**

Issued February 12, 2004

This Technical Service Bulletin is applicable to all GMC/Chevy 2500, 2500HD and 3500 vehicles equipped with Rafna's model R-290 railgear.

If not checked at installation, there is a possibility of interference between the threaded ends of the R-290 rear railgear's inner guide tubes and the vehicle's rear suspension hangers when rotating the railgear from road to rail or rail to road position. The interference can result in damage to both the railgear and the vehicle. The occurrence of interference is affected by:

1. The magnitude of the loading on the vehicle and railgear;
2. The stiffness of and modifications made to the vehicle's suspension;
3. Which mounting slots are used on the railgear mounting bracket; and
4. The thickness of shims used between the railgear and the railgear mounting bracket.

A visual inspection for damage in the affected areas of the vehicle and railgear can determine if interference is occurring. The vehicle's rear suspension hangers should be examined for chipping or cracking, particularly on the side flanges. The threaded ends of the railgear's inner guide tubes should be examined for bending or other signs of damage.

To avoid this interference and the resulting damage, a minimum thickness of railgear mounting shims (Rafna p/n's R-2960, R-2960A & R-2631) must be used as described below and illustrated in Figure 1:

1. When using the rear-most mounting slots on the railgear mounting bracket, a minimum shim thickness of 0.5" is required between the railgear mounting bracket and the railgear;
2. When using either the center or front-most mounting slots on the railgear mounting bracket, a minimum shim thickness of 1" is required between the railgear mounting bracket and the railgear.
3. Ensure that, when the railgear suspension compresses fully (rubber springs will be 1.625" tall at max compression), the threaded ends of the inner guide tubes do not contact the vehicle's rear suspension hangers.

**RAFNA TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN No. 157**  
R-290 Rear Railgear Interference on GMC/Chevy Vehicles

