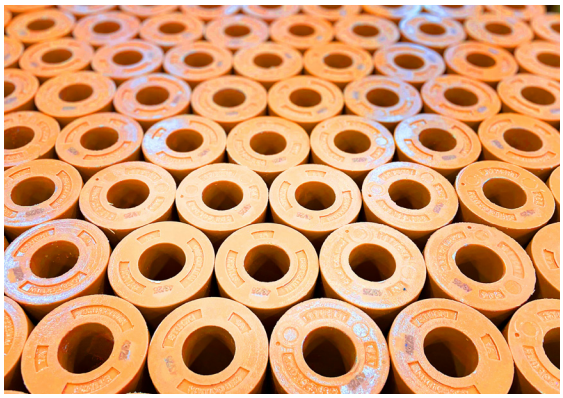
Technical Service Bulletin
RESILIENT SIDE BEARING BLOCKS

A.STUCKI

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING USEFUL LIFE OF STUCKI RESILIENT SIDE BEARING BLOCKS.



1. Block Replacement Based Upon Time or Mileage Limits:

Block designs listed below may be considered due for routine replacement after 600,000 service miles or six service years, whichever is reached first.

RB-11 (656-CR)
RB-27 (656-CRH/ISB-12)
RB-14 (656-CRL)
RB-34 (685-RM/ISB-10)
CSB®/Compact Column Side Bearing TM
RB-42 (ISB-2LP)
RB-57 (RetroXT LP DropIn, LP BoltOn, SP DropIn, and LPC)

Block designs listed below may be considered due for routine replacement after 800,000 service miles or eight service years, whichever is reached first.

RB-9 (688-BR)
RB-17 (690-RL)
RB-24 (675-RL, ISB-8)
RB-34 (685-RM, ISB-10)
RB-35 (675-RXL)
RB-36 (ISB-3)
RB-46 (ISB-9DR)
RB-52 (ISB-9DR)
CSB Column
SSB® Cap Assembly

2. Block Age Identification

Stucki resilient blocks are debossed with a date indicator which readily identifies the week and year of manufacture, as shown in Figure 2. The improved block date code includes two identifiers; one indicator is the week of manufacture and the other indicator is the year of manufacture. Any other date code design is obsolete. If more than 5 years old, then it should be replaced.

Figure 2: Block reads: "25th week of 2024"
Please see A. Stucki Company product guide figure 2.24 for block configuration.

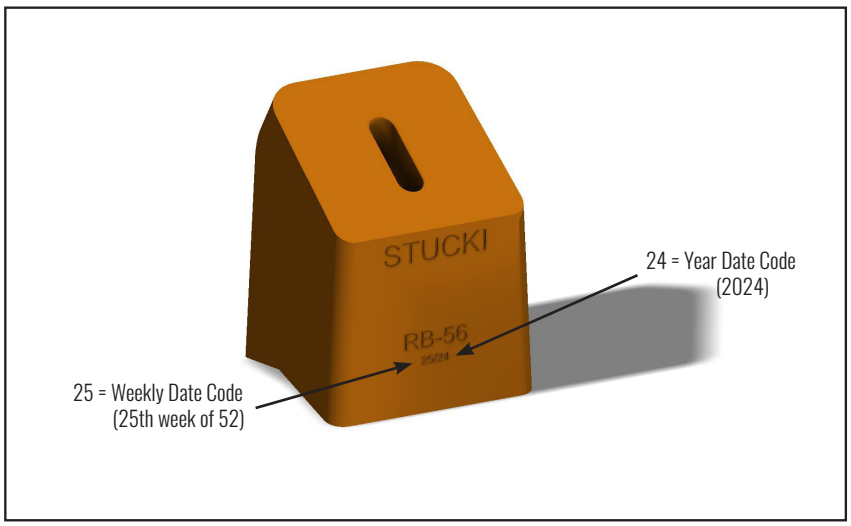


Figure 2: Block Code Dating

A. STUCKI

Side Bearing Blocks

guide to govern the useful service life of Stucki resilient side bearing blocks

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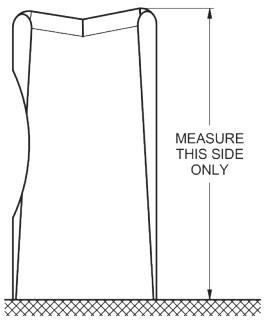
3. Block Replacement Based Upon Free Height Measurement

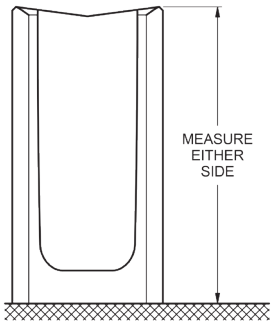
An alternative method for determining when block replacement is required is to measure block free heights. Minimum allowable free height for the various block styles, measured as illustrated in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C are:

Figure 3A



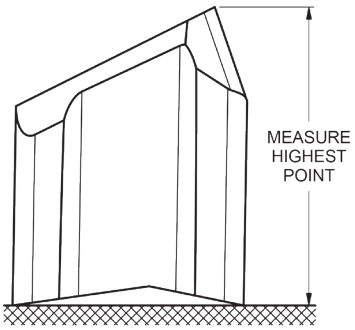
RB-11 (656-CR) 4-5/16”
RB-14 (656-CRL) 4-1/4”

Figure 3B



RB-9 (688-BR) 4-3/16”
RB-17 (690-RL) 4-3/16”
RB-36 (ISB-3) 4-7/16”
RB-42 (ISB-2LP) 3-7/16”
RB-46 (ISB-9DR) 4-3/16”
RB-52 (ISB-9DR) 4-7/16”
RB-56 3-11/16”
RB-57 2-5/16”
RB-58 2-5/16”
RB-59 3-11/16”
SSB® Cap Ass’y 4-15/16”
CSB Column 4-5/16”

Figure 3C



RB-24 (675-RL, ISB-8) 3-5/8”
RB-27 (656-CRH) 3-13/16”
RB-34 (685-RM) 3-3/4”
RB-35 (675-RXL) 3-17/32”

Blocks must be allowed to relax, under no load, for at least one hour, at normal room temperature before free height measurements can be taken. A large number of cars equipped with Stucki resilient side bearings have already far exceeded the life expectancy criteria defined above and continue to display satisfactory control characteristics. This is particularly true of cars operating under 60 mph, cars not generally considered to be “troublesome” in terms of truck hunting response, and cars undergoing diligent truck maintenance programs.

4. Truck Wear Conditions

Stucki conventional resilient side bearings have been shown by numerous hunting tests and countless miles of service experience to be capable generally of achieving a 15 to 25 mph increase in the threshold hunting speed for most ordinary freight car designs. Stucki metal-capped resilient side bearings typically achieve hunting threshold speed increases of 25 to 35 mph. The level of control that will be attained with an individual car, however, depends greatly on the condition of the trucks, and in particular, the condition of the column friction snubbing system. No design of constant contact side bearing can be expected to adequately control truck hunting if the truck squaring bias of the friction wedges has been reduced significantly by the combined wear of the wedges, bolster pockets, and column wear plates. Thus, the replacement of service worn resilient block should always be accompanied by thorough inspection, and repair when necessary, of the column snubbing system components. Also, Stucki Elastowedge™ resilient friction elements should be given serious consideration as a means for reducing future wear in this area, and maintaining better long term hunting control.