

faq NP PART NUMBERS

Q — **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NP PART NUMBERS AND OTHER PART NUMBERS?**

A — NP part numbers are specified by original equipment makers for applications that are not served by conventional bearing designs. As vehicle performance levels evolve, older technology may require redesign to manage the high temperatures, stresses and synthetic lubricants.

Q — **I HAVE MEASURED THE BEARINGS, AND THE DIMENSIONS SEEM TO BE THE SAME FROM NP PART NUMBERS TO STANDARD BEARINGS. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?**

A — NP part numbers are designed for specific applications. While a bearing may appear interchangeable with another part number, it is not. Specific applications require specific bearings. In addition, bearing dimensions published in simple specification guides are only a few of the many detailed dimensions of the internal bearing geometry. Internal bearing geometry is a key to NP part numbers.

Q — **CAN I USE STANDARD BEARINGS IN PLACE OF NP BEARINGS?**

A — Using standard product as replacement for an NP part number will usually result in a significant reduction in application performance.

Q — **WHY DOES TIMKEN USE NP PART NUMBERS? WHY NOT USE AFBMA NUMBERS?**

A — Timken uses NP part numbers to make it clear to the end user that the bearing is distinct and has been designed for a specific application. NP part numbers also provide a way to eliminate EX or XP part numbers that were once assigned to prototypes. The NP number makes for a cleaner part numbering system. This number stays with the bearing from prototype through production and into the aftermarket.

Q — **DO OTHER BEARING MANUFACTURERS USE NP PART NUMBERS?**

A — Using NP part numbers helps prevent our competitors from attempting to duplicate the bearing, since the bearing series number is not part of the NP part number. Including the series number as part of the NP part number could mislead a competitor into thinking they have duplicated the bearing design and its specifications.

Other bearing manufacturers are not allowed to make Timken bearings with the NP part number designation. This is due to the fact that Timken holds the rights to the design and manufacturing of that specific part number.

Q — **WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF NP PART NUMBERS CARRIED BY THE TIMKEN CORPORATION?**

A — NP part numbers have been used for ConMet and Dana heavy-duty bearings, as well as for Ford, GM and Chrysler bearing applications.

Q — **WILL THE COMPANY ADD MORE NP PART NUMBERS?**

A — Yes. As Timken continues to engineer solutions for specific applications, additional NP part numbers will be introduced.

Q — **ARE NP PART NUMBERS STRICTLY FOR HEAVY-DUTY APPLICATIONS?**

A — No. NP part numbers are used for automotive, industrial and any other bearings designed by Timken with a unique application.

Q — **WHY IS TIMKEN PRODUCING MORE NP PART NUMBERS?**

A — Internal geometry, load ratings, surface finishes and other engineering techniques affect bearing design. As Timken engineers create solutions for specific applications, NP part numbers become necessary.

One of the strengths of The Timken Company is that we can provide unique and variable manufacturing capabilities to satisfy a wide range of customer application performance requirements. NP part numbers provide a way to identify the bearing is unique and that it should never be substituted with an industry standard part number.

WARNING: Follow the equipment manufacturer's installation instructions. Failure to follow installation instructions, guidelines and warnings can cause equipment failure, creating a risk of serious bodily harm.

frequently asked questions