



## **Attention Distributors and OEMs** **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** **That Requires Your Immediate Attention**

In September 2007, Premier began investigating a few 690 Couplings that had 294 Bolts fractured on the bolt head end, while in use on Transfer Trailer style units used in California. Since that time we have spent countless hours analyzing every aspect of these fractures as well as the vehicles that the fractured bolts occurred on. All of this work has been performed with full disclosure to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). To date we have not found a defect in the 294 Bolts that caused the fractures to initiate. What we have learned is that all of the coupling bodies that we have been able to examine, that have had a 294 Bolt fracture in them, show that the drawbar eye has been articulated past the point of free rotation and was bound-up (jackknifed). Our findings are that the jackknife induced binding is causing an overload to the 294 Bolt. This initiates a fracture and with continued use the fracture can grow and allow the bolt head to fracture off and possible **trailer to truck detachment can occur.**

As we began to understand that jackknifing was damaging the 294 Bolts, we redesigned the 294 Bolt. On February 1, 2008, we began supplying a new designed 294 Bolt in all parts kits and coupling bodies. This part is stronger than the original but it still **will not withstand a jackknife binding event.** Basically, these transfer trailer units produce significant amplification overloads during a jackknife binding event that can destroy any 294 Bolt we design/manufacture. We have warned against jackknifing in our literature for many years but some have chosen to allow it to occur anyway. Because we cannot stop jackknifing from occurring, on April 6, 2009, we updated all of our literature that is enclosed with all 690 Coupling bodies, 690 Repair Kits and individual 294 Bolts. We also attached a warning sticker to the same products that states the following:

**WARNING** Important update to all 690 Couplings. Must read attached literature regarding **294 Bolt 1-year service life.**

**Effective immediately** all 294 Bolts used in coupling assemblies: 690L, 690R, 690T; repair kits: 690LRK, 690RRK, 690TRK; and individual 294 Bolt sales (regardless of when they were manufactured) now have a maximum 1-year service life.

We are requesting that you query your sales of the below items and contact the purchasers immediately to make them aware of the 1-year maximum service life for any and all 294 Bolts.

**Premier couplings: 690L, 690R, 690T**  
**Premier repair kits: 690LRK, 690RRK, 690TRK and 294 Bolts**

In order to help our customers more easily afford to replace any 294 Bolts that have surpassed their 1-year service life, Premier will be offering new 294 Bolts & mating 297 Locknuts as a **294K (Kit)**, at a significant discount, to our Distributors and OEMs. We are setting this *temporary* discounted list price at \$29.50 (normally \$57.02) to encourage prompt replacement of these parts. **These temporary prices will be in effect until June 1, 2010.**

If you have any question, please contact our **Customer Service Department at (800)255-5387.**