

During an inspection carried out by our engineer on a Komatsu WA 320 Loading Shovel at an asphalt plant, it was noted that there was a crack travelling from the holes of each wheel stud. At first glance, it probably looks like only the paintwork had cracked, but after cleaning the area with a pressure washer and closer inspection, it was confirmed that this was actually a crack in the rim itself.

The machine was immediately put into quarantine and further inspection carried out; another hair line crack was found on the opposite wheel and another in one of the front wheels. This could have potentially caused a major equipment failure with catastrophic consequences.



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- Four new wheel rims were ordered and fitted by an external Tyre company.
- We are in the process of checking all other shovels, but this seems like an isolated incident
- The main dealer was contacted as part of the investigation, who have passed this info directly onto the manufacturers Komatsu and awaiting any additional information.
- All managers are to emphasise the importance of Vehicle and Plant daily checks and not just to tick the sheet, making sure plant is kept in the cleanest of conditions as dirt can easily mask or mislead the operator.



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