



ITW CIP PACNUT™ REDUCES POSSIBILITY OF DANGEROUS “WHEEL-OFF’S” IN COMMERCIAL TRUCKS AND TRAILERS

TROY, Mich., Oct. 1, 2007—ITW CIP, a leading automotive fastener company, today introduced the PACNUT™, a proven laminated nut designed to internally deflect and help eliminate “wheel-offs” in commercial trucks and trailers.

This summer, a string of Washington-area crashes caused by loose wheel nuts has spurred attention to the infrequent but very serious problem that occurs each year.

ITW CIP’s patented PACNUT technology prevents wheel joint failure or the “wheel-off” hazard by filling the gap created when wheel joint thickness is lost. Thickness and, therefore, firm joint tension is compromised due to settling excess paint, dirt, corrosion, surface imperfections, heat expansion/contraction and vibration. The PACNUT is able to maintain sufficient force to keep the wheels tight by using Bellville washer technology in which the PACNUT “spring” uncompresses and fills the gap.

“I have spent 30 years in the wheel business and PACNUT is the first product that I have seen that helps maintain wheel joint integrity,” said Ross Hill, business development manager for ITW CIP.

The PACNUT’s basic technology is not new to the world of fasteners. It was first introduced in the 1980s and has been used by both Ford Motor Company and General Motors on automobiles. Its well-tested design squeezes bolts tight, preventing loosening by creating joint “preload” in allowing the laminated washers to compress. Other applications in which the PACNUT is used include hub spindles, transmissions, exhaust manifolds, EGR valves and engine accessory attachment.

About ITW-CIP

Based in Troy, Michigan, ITW CIP has been earning a reputation for unique automotive fastener designs, technologies and processes. With locations in California, Connecticut, and Tennessee, the company employs 300 people. ITW CIP fasteners can be found on vehicle platforms around the world – securing fenders, bumpers, chassis assemblies, doors, interior components and much more.

ITW CIP is a division of Illinois Tool Works, a \$14 billion organization with 750 divisions spanning North America, South America, Europe and the Pacific Rim. Through its global network, ITW CIP has access to unmatched organizational resources, talent and technologies, ensuring support at home and around the world.

For more information on PACNUT and other products from ITW-CIP visit www.itwcip.com or call 517-488-2751.