

QWIKTIE® Tie Rod Assembly

A Universal Tie Rod Assembly for Commercial Vehicles

The purpose of this Tech Tip is to provide guidelines for the use, inspection, and replacement of QWIKTIE® Rod Assemblies.

1. General Use and Inspection

- QWIKTIE® is approved for the following vehicle applications: interstate, on-highway, and limited off-highway. STEMCO does not approve QWIKTIE® in-vehicle applications that include more than 20% off-highway vehicle use and/or exceeds legal weight limitations.
- Refer to the axle manufacturer's instructions as a primary guide for inspection interval service recommendations.
- Follow STEMCO's Guidelines for QWIKTIE® rod assembly ([01-577-0120](http://www.stemco.com/01-577-0120)) for installation, removal, and inspection.
- It is important to identify early signs of excessive play, which indicates wear. Over time, suspension wear is accelerated and serious damage can occur if not attended early in the preventive maintenance.

2. Additional Inspection Guidelines

- Replace QWIKTIE® assembly if any of the following are found:
 - Inspect for damage that can lead to significant axle and steering repairs including dents, bending or deformation and other unusual marks from external contact.
 - Inspect for seal damage, worn ball socket(s) or loose fasteners.
 - Inspect for adjustment, missing, loose or bent steer axle stops.
- Check wheel alignment if you experience excessive steering effort, vehicle wander, or uneven and/or excessive tire wear.

3. Replacement Recommendations:

- STEMCO recommends replacement of a QWIKTIE® for any out of specification condition as noted in the Guidelines for QWIKTIE® rod assembly ([01-577-0120](http://www.stemco.com/01-577-0120)).
- If a vehicle is involved in an accident creating a side load on the axle (e.g. crash, curb impact, or any significant impact), especially when the vehicle is loaded at or above GVWR, replace the QWIKTIE®.
- If a bent wheel, hub, or spindle is found on the steer axle, STEMCO strongly recommends replacing the complete QWIKTIE® Rod Assembly and performing a thorough inspection of the axle and steering components.