

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL BORDER ROADS**

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTION NO 47**

**ON**

**MAINTENANCE OF SHOCK ABSORBERS**

**OF**

**ALL "B" VEHICLES FITTED WITH HYDRAULIC SHOCK ABSORBERS**

1. **Description.** Failure to maintain shock absorbers correctly has been proved to account for a large percentage of spring failures and for complaints of poor steering. The two major types of shock absorbers in use on service vehicles are (a) Direct acting and (b) Double and single acting.

2. **Action.** By Field Wksps/ GREF Base Wksps.

3. **Instructions.**

Direct acting (Telescopic type) on this type of shock absorbers as they are usually sealed by the Makers and can only be repaired or refilled in Base Wksps.

(a) **Double and single acting.** These shock absorbers should be given service maintenance at every 1000 and 6000 miles period.

**1,000 Miles Maintenance.** Inspect for leaks. Fluid seepage on the shock absorbers body and arm indicates a leak and shock absorber should be replaced or repaired in a Base Wksp.

Test the bolts mounting the shock absorber to the frame, Loose bolts nullify some of the shock absorbers action. Test shock absorber linkage for wear and lost motion. Exchange badly worn parts. If the link joints are rubber or fabric, coat the exposed parts with hydraulic brake fluid. This prevents drying up and cranking.

**6,000 miles maintenance.** Carry out normal 1,000 miles maintenance. Fill the shock absorber with fluid. This is best done by disconnecting the shock absorber link from the axle. Wipe all dust from around the filler plug, remove the plug and fill the shock absorber body until fluid flows from the filler hole. Work the shock absorber arm up and down several times to release any trapped air. If air is expelled the fluid level will drop and will require refilling until level remains constant and filler plug hole. Replace filler plug and test for action by working the arm up and down. The resistance on the compression (up stroke) should be greater than on the rebound (down stroke). On double acting type shock absorber reconnected arm to axle.

**HQ DGBR GMI No47 Dated 01 Nov 71**