Reduced Maintenance. Added Reliability. 
Huck® Fasteners Add To Fleet Productivity.

Downtime and maintenance can be a drag on fleet performance and productivity, particularly when it involves key frame, chassis, and suspension joints. Having to regularly re-tighten or even replace fasteners is difficult and time consuming. In addition, this process can be very expensive when considering the cost of maintenance personnel and vehicle downtime. This article covers the joining properties of engineered HuckBolts®, their use in critical truck, chassis, and trailer applications, and an interview with Penske Truck Leasing management, who for years have successfully used HuckBolts to keep their 215,000-vehicle fleet on the road.

For many years, a large number of fleet operators have come to count on the benefits associated with specifying engineered HuckBolt® lockbolts for use in critical truck and trailer joints – consistent clamp, tensile and fatigue strength, and unmatched vibration resistance. In truck chassis, the Huck BobTail™ and Huck-Spin™ 2 swaged lockbolts are employed to ensure the long-term joint integrity of shock mounts, suspension members, ladder assemblies, and 5th wheel angles. For trailer assemblies, various HuckBolts, blind bolts and structural rivets are employed in the assembly of subframes, kick rails, panels, roof assemblies, and floors. Compared with conventional fasteners, each of these HuckBolts delivers the industry’s best combination of clamp, tensile strength, and zero-maintenance performance, and never requires inspection, re-tightening or re-torquing. In addition, where HuckBolts are used in lieu of welding, the potential for maintenance issues resulting from “weld fatigue” is eliminated.

Today, the superior joining performance of Huck fasteners is so widely accepted that many fleet maintenance groups are now using these fasteners when repairing key high-stress areas on both trucks and trailers in order to maintain the reliability and structural integrity of the repaired vehicle.
There are a large number of critical truck and chassis applications where HuckBolts are proven to improve vehicle reliability, reduce warranty claims, and provide long-term, maintenance-free performance.

When used to join 5th wheel angles, HuckBolts provide a strong permanent clamp between the frame and the 5th wheel. Vibration-resistant Huck fasteners act as permanent elements of this assembly, making the 5th wheel an extension of the frame itself.

Suspension members, where only one loose fastener can lead to a cracked suspension hanger or an alignment problem, are key assemblies where HuckBolts can make the difference between reliability and failure. The consistent clamp of these advanced fasteners, combined with their proven ability to withstand vibration, make them the choice for this critical application. In addition, because HuckBolts never require re-tightening or re-torquing, as do conventional fasteners, maintenance requirements are significantly reduced.

HuckBolts are also often used in the joining of air bag and shock mounts to the frame. These parts must provide the necessary shock and impact absorption to trucks traveling over hazardous roadways, making the integrity of the joint critical from both a truck life and a safety perspective. When attached with HuckBolts, these air bags and shock mounts benefit from the fasteners’ superior impact strength, adding to the integrity of their assembly in even the toughest road conditions.

When used for ladder assemblies, HuckBolts ensure the frame performs as a one-piece unit. The inherent shear and tensile strength provided by HuckBolts ensure the long-term integrity of the connection, greatly reducing maintenance and extending the life of the truck.

When traditional U-bolts are used for axle connections, they must be maintained at 10,000 and 50,000 miles, which requires difficult and time consuming re-tightening and re-torquing. In contrast, swaged-on Huck U-Spin U-bolts provide a permanent, vibration-resistant joint, which never requires any maintenance. By using maintenance-free U-Spin U-bolts, the risk of voiding a warranty by not tightening U-bolts is eliminated.
The structural integrity of any trailer is dependent upon the strength of the fasteners that are used in assembling them. HuckBolts and Huck Structural Blind Fasteners provide the joint strength and overall durability to a number of trailer assembly applications, adding to the maintenance-free life of the trailer, and reducing warranty claims.

When used in the assembly of chassis and subframes, the Huck BobTail® provides both high structural strength and vibration-resistant clamp. This engineered fastener is proven to deliver industry-leading durability for critical subframe-to-chassis assemblies.

For the assembly of a wide range of trailer joints, the superior blind side bulbing action of the Huck® Auto-Bulb™ makes it ideal for installation within thin materials as well as oversized, misaligned, or slotted holes. In addition, the stainless steel Auto-Bulb™ offers durable corrosion resistance for frequently acid-washed trailers.

To ensure the optimal level of structural support from trailer cross members, the high level of structural strength of HuckBolts can add to the durability and years of reliable service for a wide range of trailer designs.

For the ladder attachment, the Huck BOM® blind oversized mechanically locked fastener combines high shear capacity and tensile force to ensure the long-term integrity of this critical joint.

To provide the moisture- and vibration-resistant characteristics of a trailer’s top rail, the Huck Magna-Lok’s® solid circle-lock feature ensures the integrity of the joint for the life of the trailer.

For grain chute applications, the Huck BobTail is normally configured in stainless steel construction, with a unique polished head. The strength and vibration resistance of the BobTail ensure that the seams on a trailer’s grain chute remain tight, eliminating the potential for lost product.

In joining panels to a trailer frame, Huck’s unique Hucktainer® fastening system contributes a high degree of strength and vibration-resistance. This water-resistant fastener can be effectively used with sheet metal, fiberglass reinforced plywood, or metal-clad panels with stack-ups as thin as 3/16”.

Huck’s proprietary Floortight® blind rivet delivers a number of benefits in the assembly of trailer floors. This unique fastener provides both superior strength and vibration resistance, adding to the life and durability of the trailer floor.
Penske Truck Leasing, a leading global transportation services provider, operates more than 215,000 vehicles and serves customers from nearly 700 locations in North America. The Penske product line includes full-service truck leasing, contract maintenance, commercial and consumer truck rentals, used truck sales, transportation and warehousing management, and supply chain management solutions.

Mike Hasinec is Vice President of Maintenance Support for Penske Truck Leasing. Mike’s areas of responsibility include technical training, vehicle applications engineering, new product testing, policies, procedures, tooling, parts, warranty, supplier management and regulatory compliance. In a recent interview Mike discussed Penske’s experience with HuckBolts.

**Question:** How has the use of Huck® fasteners on your trucks and trailers affected your business in terms of maintenance, warranty claims, downtime, and vehicle life?

**Answer:**
“We have found that ordinary frame fasteners require periodic re-torquing, which adds time and cost to maintaining a vehicle. Huck fasteners eliminate the need to constantly re-torque components attached to the frame rails, such as brackets, hangers and cross members.”

**Question:** Do you also use HuckBolts® for repair?

**Answer:**
“When our vehicles are in need of any sort of repair to frame components, we insist on using Huck Fasteners.”

**Question:** Are there any other comments you might want to make concerning Penske’s commitment to having HuckBolts included on their trucks and trailers?

**Answer:**
“We have been using HuckBolts for years and made them a standard spec on our power equipment anywhere they could be used, long before they became standard with most OEMs. We have been very pleased with the performance and reliability of the product and would recommend to anyone that they should make it standard wherever possible.”