14 Driveshaft rubber coupling - check and replacement

Note:
A rubber coupling is not present on all models. On some models, a universal joint is installed on the front of the driveshaft instead (see Section 9).

Check

1 Firmly apply the parking brake, then jack up the front of the vehicle and support it on axle stands.

2 Closely examine the rubber coupling, links the driveshaft to the transmission, looking for signs of damage such as cracking or splitting or for signs of general deterioration. If necessary, replace the coupling as follows.

Replacement

Note:
New driveshaft coupling nuts will be required.

3 Follow the procedures outlined in steps 1, 2, 4 and 5 of Section 6 .

4 Slide the front half of the driveshaft to the rear then disengage it from the transmission locating pin and pivot it downwards.

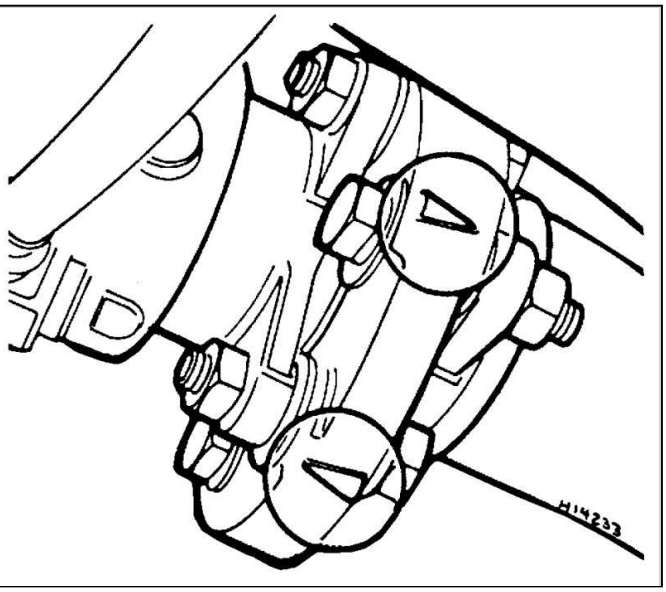
5 Loosen and remove the nuts securing the coupling to the shaft and remove it **(see illustration)** . If necessary, also remove the vibration damper; the damper should also be replaced if it shows signs of wear or damage.

14.5 Coupling-to-driveshaft retaining bolts (arrows)

6 Aligning the marks made on removal, install the vibration damper (if equipped) to the driveshaft.

7 Install the new rubber coupling noting that the arrows on the side of the coupling must point towards the driveshaft/transmission flanges **(see illustration)** . Install the new retaining nuts and tighten them to the specified torque.

14.7 If the coupling has directional arrows, make sure the arrows are pointing towards the driveshaft/transmission flanges and not the bolt heads



8 Apply a smear of molybdenum disulfide grease (the manufacturer recommends Molykote Longterm 2) to the transmission pin and shaft bushing and maneuver the shaft into position.

9 Align the marks made prior to removal and engage the shaft with the transmission flange. With the marks correctly aligned, insert the bolts and install the new retaining nuts. Tighten them to the specified torque, noting that the nut/bolt should only be rotated on the flange side to avoid stressing the rubber coupling.

10 Tighten the driveshaft threaded sleeve to the specified torque.

11 Install the exhaust system and associated components (see Chapter 4).