



Alternators with heavily oil-fouled vacuum pump

Damage

In the case of some vehicles with diesel engines, the vacuum required for the brake booster is created by a vacuum pump fitted to the alternator. A frequently-occurring problem is that these alternators are completely fouled with oil and therefore fail.



Causes

One of the most frequent causes of this problem is the seal between the alternator and the vacuum pump. This seal, which is in the main realized via a rubber ring, becomes leaky due to ageing and also after replacement of the alternator. Often, the rubber ring is not replaced, and the alternator fails after a short time due to the entry of oil.

Effects

The entry of oil can damage the alternator within a very short space of time, and lead to failure.

Note

The seal between the alternator and the vacuum pump should always be replaced if the components have been separated. In relation to this, also check the oil and vacuum hoses on the vacuum pump for tightness.