

Pro-Torq® Axle Nut Retaining Keeper 450-4973 Design Change

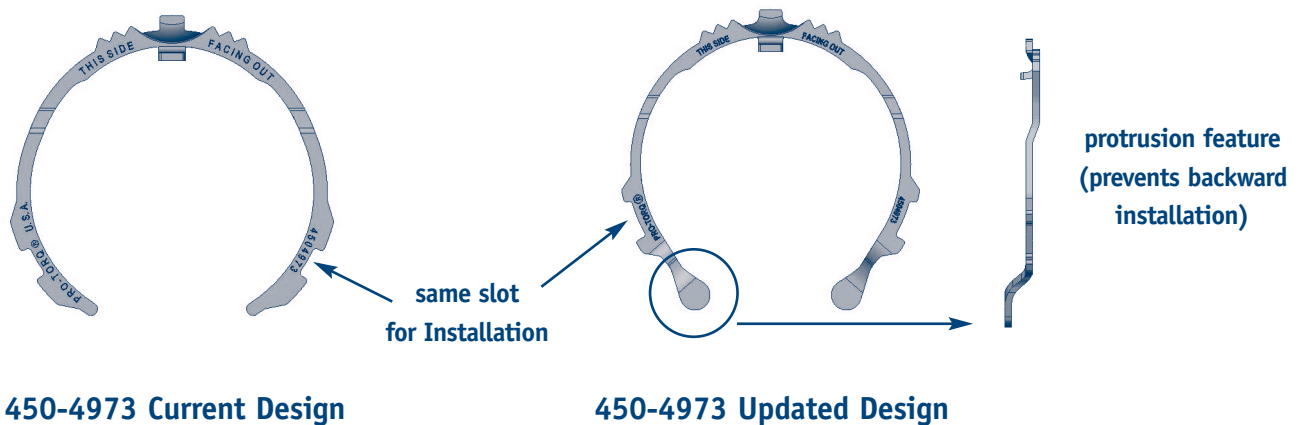
TO: DISTRIBUTORS OF STEMCO WHEEL END PRODUCTS

STEMCO, supplier of the Pro-Torq® axle nut, is releasing an updated design for the 450-4973 retaining keeper, as shown below. The design is a running change that adds an enhancement that prevents improper (backward) installation of the keeper. Upon depletion of current inventory STEMCO will begin shipping the new design keeper, on or around November 15, 2006.

This change is the result of customer input for design improvement to help install the keeper correctly every time. In addition to the orange paint and stamping "THIS SIDE FACING OUT", the new feature is a physical alteration to help avoid installing the keeper backward.

Please note the geometry differences between the current and new keeper designs as pictured below. There will be no changes in installation procedures or keeper performance, but users will notice the modification to the geometry of the 450-4973 keeper.

Thank you for your continued support of STEMCO products.



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