

# Technical Bulletin

**Subject: AKS STABILISER 50mm TOWBALL REQUIREMENTS**

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The AL-KO "AKS" range of stabilizing coupling heads is fitted as original equipment on most European caravans and some Australian and New Zealand caravans as optional equipment, where a 50mm towball is used.

The effective suppression of snaking movements of the caravan or trailer is achieved by 4 special friction pads which surround the towball and resist rotation.

**AS A RESULT OF THIS DESIGN IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE 50mm TOWBALL USED ON THE TOWING VEHICLE IS UNABLE TO BE LOOSENED BY ROTATION.**

Most tow vehicles within Europe use a rigid forged 50mm towball which is bolted to an attachment on the vehicle towbar. The fixing and retention of this style of towball is not affected by the friction clamping of the AKS style stabiliser.

However, most tow vehicles within Australia and New Zealand use a conventional towball which is most commonly fixed through the towbar tongue and retained by a washer and nut. This type of towball, when used in conjunction with an AKS style coupling head could become loosened by normal vehicle/caravan rotation during turning.

To eliminate this AL-KO has developed, using an Australian Standard 50mm towball (with flats on the ball flange), a retention plate which stops the rotation of the towball during operation. An example of the plate and towball are shown in the photos below.



**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ONLY A 50mm TOWBALL WHICH CANNOT UNWIND ITSELF BE USED WITH ANY AKS STABILISING COUPLING HEAD.**

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These components are supplied in the AKS3004 coupling kit sold with the total coupling package. Separate 50mm AKS towballs and retention plates are also available.

- Part No. 618304: AKS3004 Stabiliser Coupling Kit
- Part No. 618904: 50mm AKS Towball
- Part No. 618100: AKS Towball Retention Plate
- Part No. 618200: AKS Towball Retention Plate for use with popular weight distribution hitches
- Part No. 618901 50mm AKS Hi-Rise Towball (suitable for most European caravans)

The appropriate spare parts should be fitted to your tow vehicle if you have purchased a new or second hand caravan that has an AKS stabiliser coupling and you have not been supplied the special AKS 50mm towball and retention plate.

**\*\* NOTE: In New Zealand 1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" towballs are often used. These are not suitable for use with AL-KO AKS style couplings.**

For further information please contact your nearest AL-KO International branch or go to the technical literature section of our website. Contact details are at the bottom of the page.