

2012 - Mazda6 - Steering

STEERING WHEEL AND COLUMN INSPECTION

Steering Wheel Play Inspection

1. With the wheels in the straight-ahead position, gently turn the steering wheel to the left and right and verify that the play is within the specification.

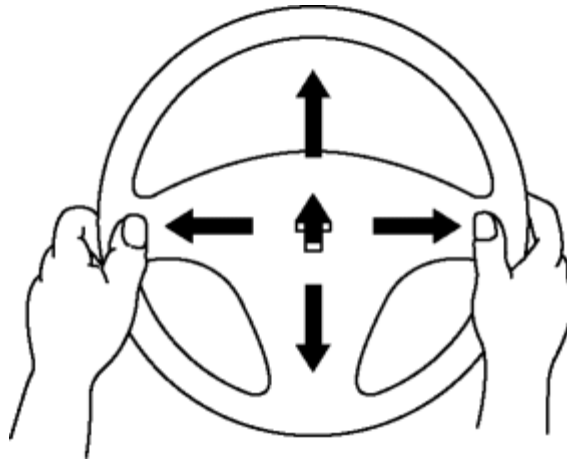
- If the play exceeds the specification, either the steering joints are worn or the backlash of the steering gear is excessive. Correct as necessary.

Steering wheel play

- 0—30 mm {0—1.1 in}

Steering Wheel Looseness Inspection

1. Move the steering wheel as shown in the figure to inspect for column bearing wear, steering shaft joint play, steering wheel looseness, and column looseness.



- Repair or replace as necessary.

Steering Wheel Effort Inspection

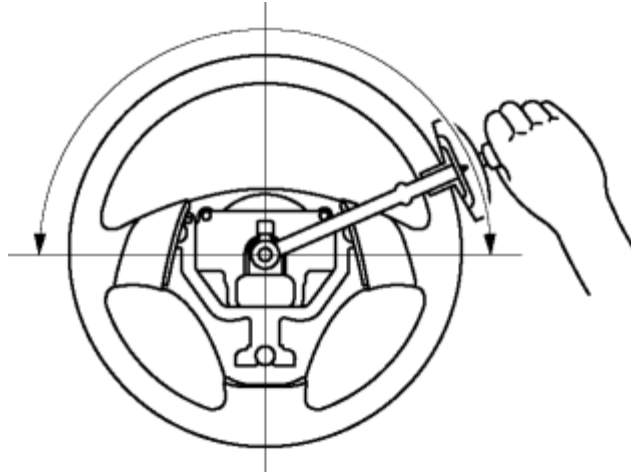
1. Inspect the following points:

- Tire size and tire pressure
- Fluid level
- Drive belt deflection

2. With the vehicle on a hard, level surface, put the wheels in the straight-ahead position.
3. Remove the air bag module.

WARNING:

- Handling the air bag module improperly can accidentally deploy the air bag module, which may seriously injure you. Read AIR BAG SYSTEM WARNINGS before handling the air bag module. (See **AIR BAG SYSTEM SERVICE WARNINGS.**) (See **AIR BAG SYSTEM SERVICE CAUTIONS.**)
4. Start the engine and warm the power steering fluid to **50—60 °C { 122—140 °F }**.
 5. Measure the steering wheel effort using a torque wrench.



- If not within the specification, verify the following:
 - No air in steering system
 - No fluid leakage at hose or connectors
 - Function of oil pump and steering gear

Steering wheel effort

- 7.8 N·m {80 kgf·cm, 69 in·lbf} max.

NOTE:

- To determine whether the steering effort is satisfactory or not, perform the inspection on another vehicle of the same model and under the same conditions, and compare the results.
- The steering wheel effort varies with conditions as shown below.
 - Road conditions, such as dry or wet, and asphalt or concrete.
 - Tire conditions, such as brand, wear, and tire pressure.

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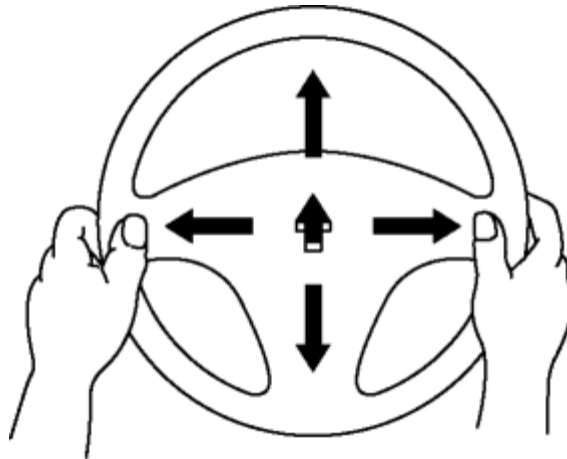
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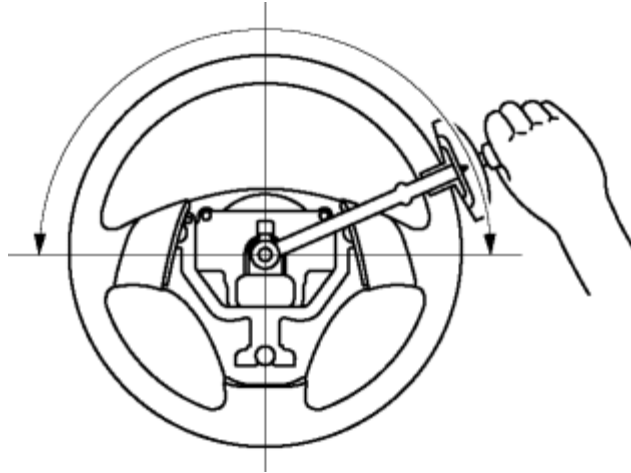
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