

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : New road stuff.

Re: New road stuff.

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/1/30 13:20:38

URL:

Yeah, it's cost cutting, as well as other factors taking on higher priority. But not so much in plating. Alloys.

Typically they make it only as stainless as it has to be. There are parts they are willing to let rust, and parts they are not. They've gotten more aggressive at knowing the difference and engineering every part to be sufficient to do its job in the environment it's expected to see, but just barely sufficient.

All alloy choices involve trade-offs. And corrosion resistance is only one attribute. Strength, toughness, fatigue resistance, and yes, cost. So maybe if they sacrifice a little corrosion resistance on part A, they can get a little higher strength for the same cost, and thus make the part smaller and cut weight, and thus get a fraction of a mpg in fuel economy improvement.

MPG has taken a much higher priority over time, and they're willing to sacrifice just about everything else for a slight improvement.