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Liteflex offers lightweight composite springs that are strong as steel but weigh less

Englewood, Ohio—Liteflex lightweight composite springs are reported to be as strong as steel but weigh 75 percent less, yielding significant performance gains for automotive, truck, military, RV, and off-road vehicle manufacturers.

The reduced weight increases the vehicle's fuel efficiency and load-carrying capacity while increasing its horsepower-to-weight ratio for faster acceleration, company officials said.

Load-deflection testing has shown that Liteflex composite springs, a proprietary mixture of fiberglass and epoxy, are virtually identical to steel, Liteflex officials said. A fatigue life nearly 10 times that of

steel eliminates the sagging that is common with steel leaf springs over time. Virtually indestructible Liteflex composite springs provide life-of-vehicle service life, the officials said.

Changing from steel leaf springs saved Corvette suspension designers 34 pounds per spring, or nearly 81 percent of the weight when composite springs replaced steel leaf springs, Corvette officials said. In addition to tangible performance gains, composite springs provide faster responsiveness to changing road conditions than their steel leaf-spring predecessors, they said.

The 2006 Corvette model year marks the



Liteflex lightweight composite springs have proven in tests that their reduced weight increases the vehicle's fuel efficiency and load-carrying capacity while increasing its horsepower-to-weight ratio for faster acceleration.

when replacing two steel leaf springs with Liteflex lightweight composite springs for a 3/4-ton 4x4 pickup truck, Liteflex officials said.

The original, all-steel design tipped the scales at 69 pounds while the hybrid steel-and-composite version weighed in at just 31 pounds. Elimination of metal-to-metal contact on the leaf springs also results in a quieter ride with the hybrid springs, the company said. ■

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