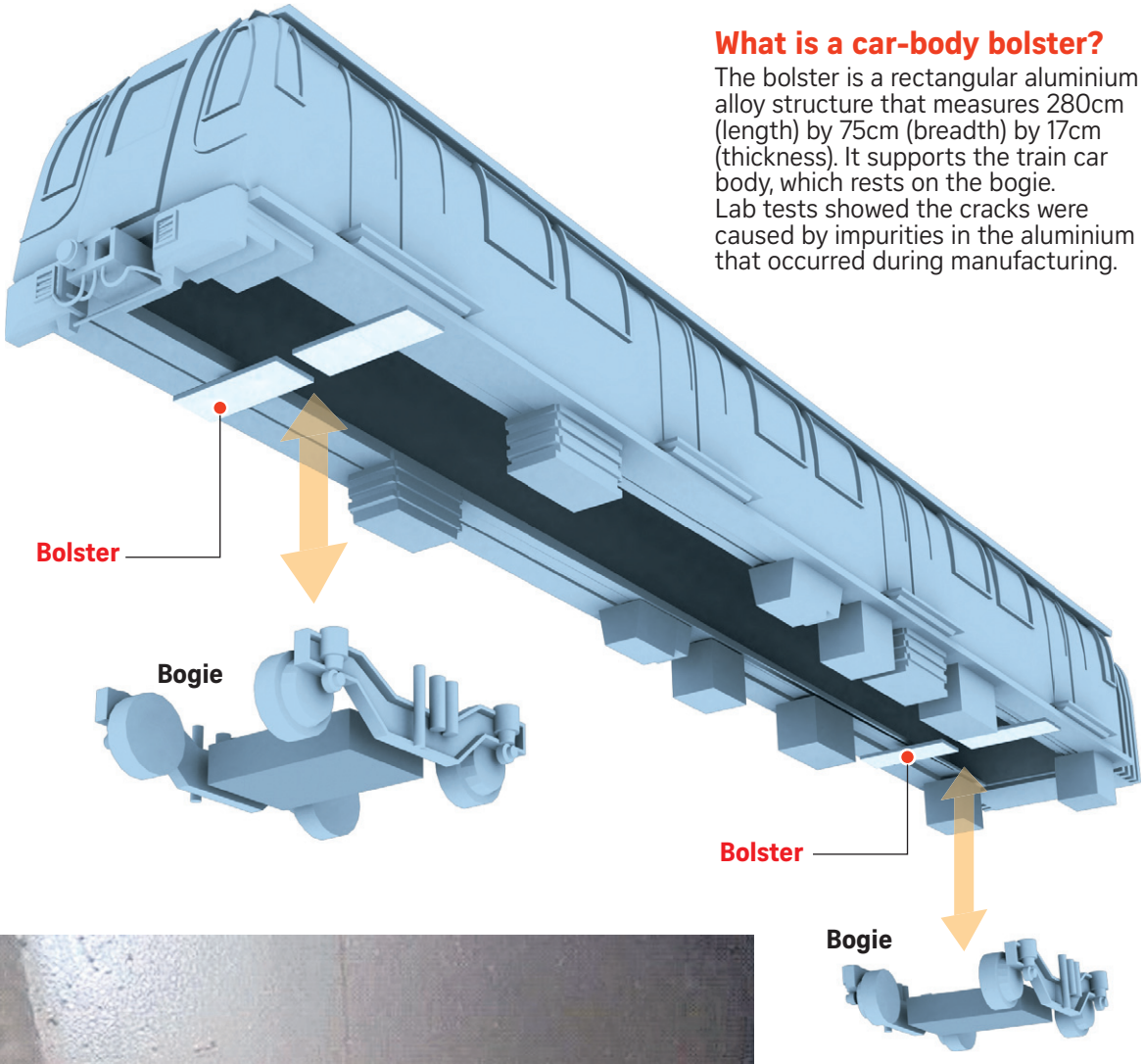
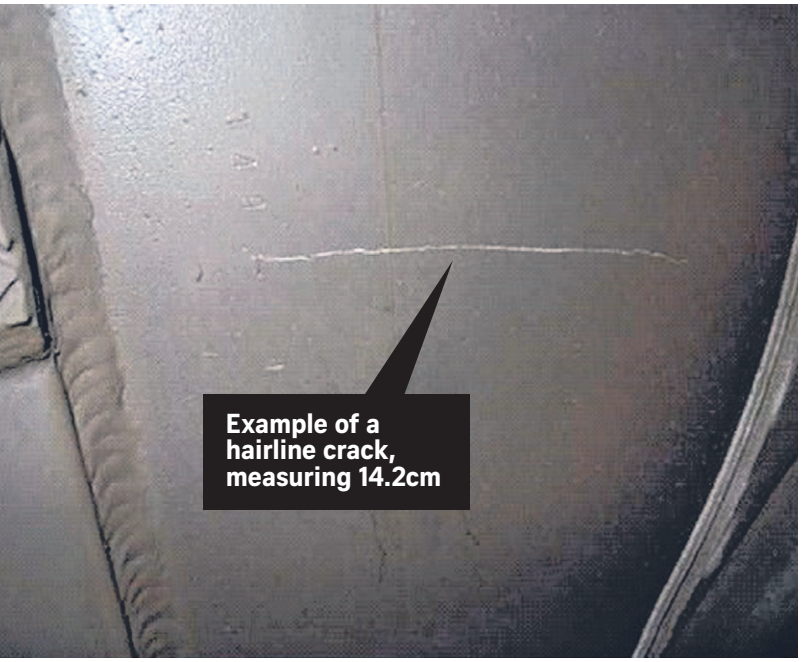
Where the defects were spotted

Hairline cracks were found on the surface of the car-body bolster on 26 trains in July 2013.

What is a car-body bolster?

The bolster is a rectangular aluminium alloy structure that measures 280cm (length) by 75cm (breadth) by 17cm (thickness). It supports the train car body, which rests on the bogie.
Lab tests showed the cracks were caused by impurities in the aluminium that occurred during manufacturing.





- Since 2014, affected trains have been progressively returned to the factory in China to replace the entire car body.
- Shipping costs are borne by the contractor.
- Each car-body replacement takes up to four months.
- Trains are sent back one at a time.
- The LTA will send two trains back at a time from next year, and all 26 trains will be repaired by 2019.
- Five of the 26 trains have had their car bodies replaced.

Source: LTA Photo: LTA STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS