

## **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

**TB-013 • July 1998**

Product Information

### **FIFTH WHEEL COUPLING PROCEDURES for TRACTORS EQUIPPED with AIR SUSPENSIONS**

Coupling procedures for tractors equipped with air suspensions are outlined below. Procedures for connecting air and electrical lines, setting of brakes or removal of wheel chocks should be followed according to Fontaine's **Driver Training Procedures** Video.

#### **COUPLING**

1. Position tractor, check to ensure 5th wheel lock mechanism is in open position.
2. Back tractor under trailer until the 5th wheel approach ramps are in position to contact the front edge of the trailer kingpin plate. If contact is made, continue backing until the 5th wheel couples to the kingpin. If contact is not made - **STOP** - the 5th wheel is too low! Inflate the tractor air suspension and raise the tractor frame until the 5th wheel comes in contact with the trailer kingpin plate. Continue backing until the 5th wheel couples to the kingpin.

**NOTE: DO NOT INFLATE THE TRACTOR AIR SUSPENSION WHEN THE KINGPIN IS IN THE THROAT OF THE 5TH WHEEL OR DAMAGE MAY OCCUR TO THE KINGPIN AND/OR THE 5TH WHEEL LOCKING MECHANISM.**

3. Check 5th wheel lock mechanism to ensure proper coupling has been achieved:
  - Jaws closed around kingpin and the pull handle set in secondary lock position.
4. Connect air and electrical lines.
5. Crank landing legs to fully retracted position.

#### **UNCOUPLING**

1. Set trailer and tractor brakes.

**NOTE: DO NOT DEFLATE OR "DUMP" THE AIR SUPPLY TO THE AIR SUSPENSION.**

2. Lower the landing legs until they make contact with the ground, then add one additional turn.
3. Disconnect all air and electrical lines.
4. Open the 5th wheel lock.
5. **Slowly** drive the tractor out from under trailer, allowing time for the air suspension to adjust to its unloaded height.