

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Recommended Maintenance Fontaine Clean Connect – Low Lube Inserts

The purpose for this recommended maintenance procedure is to assist in the long life of your low lube top plate. It is important to practice proper coupling and uncoupling procedures when using low lube top plates. Take care to insure that the trailer king pin doesn't skid across the lube plate. The trailer landing legs should be set so that the leading edge of the trailer plate contacts the fifth wheel between four to six inches behind the fifth wheel as recommended by TMC lube-free coupling guidelines RP-731A (T).*

Make sure when using a new low lube top plate to remove any paint from lube plates. This will insure a smooth surface for the break-in of your lube plates. Although the lube plate requires no grease it is very important to insure the locking components receive proper lubrication. Grease should be applied directly to and in between the fifth wheel locking components and entrance ramps every ninety days or every thirty thousand miles.

The Fontaine 7000 lube plate should be inspected regularly for wear or damage – especially during the thirty thousand mile or ninety day inspection intervals. If any damage is detected the lube plates should be replaced. To remove the lube plates, make sure the fifth wheel is in the closed position and remove the fifth wheel from the mounting bracket. Turn the fifth wheel over on a flat level surface and remove the nuts from the lube plates. Then turn the wheel over and remove the lube plates.

Before reinstalling the new lube plates insure the fifth wheel's surface is clean. Set the lube plates back into the fifth wheel making sure they are sitting flat on the fifth wheel's surface. Install flat washers (7 per insert) and then the nuts (7 per insert) making sure the torque is 120 to 140 inch pounds (11 to 14 foot pounds). Do not exceed torque specifications as this could damage the lube plates. Reinstall the fifth wheel back on the mounting bracket, replace the bracket pins, retainer pins, and reinstall cotter pins. For more information on low-lube fifth wheels refer to TMC version RP-731A (T).*

* Values reprinted from TMC's Guidelines for Total Vehicle Alignment manual, courtesy of the Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) of American Trucking Associations, 2200 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-838-1763; <http://tmc.truckline.com>