

The ConMet Connection

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Proper Lubrication Instructions for ConMet® PreSet® Rear Drive Hubs

Proper lubrication is critical to wheel hub performance. Improper or contaminated lubricant can lead to bearing failure and potential wheel separation.

Wheel bearing lubricant for steer or trailer wheel ends is typically filled through a fill plug in the hub cap. In the case of trailer hubs lubricated with semi-fluid grease, the lubricant should be installed through a fill plug in the barrel of the hub. Drive axle hubs sometimes present more of a challenge to properly fill the lubricant into the wheel end.

PreSet hub assemblies come from the factory fully assembled. A PreSet hub should not be disassembled. Before it is placed on to the spindle, the bearings should be pre-lubricated through the open ends of the hub with the same type of lubricant that will be used in the wheel end.

On a hub assembly that is rebuilt in the field, all wheel end components should be properly cleaned and the bearings lubricated before the hub is installed onto the spindle. The inner and outer bearings should be pre-lubricated with same type of lubricant that



Remove plug to check lubricant level in axle reservoir.

will be installed into the hub assembly. The wheel seal should be installed per the seal manufacturer's instructions.

In the case of drive hubs, the lubricant will be the same type of lubricant that is in the drive axle reservoir. Typically this is extreme pressure [EP] gear oil.

Wheel bearings in oil bath systems should not be packed with grease before installation. The grease may temporarily restrict the flow of lubricant in the wheel end and may result in improper fill level or may contribute to wheel seal failure.

After the drive hub is installed onto the spindle, the bearings



Lift axle eight inches to allow lubricant to flow into the hub on the opposite end of the axle.

adjusted, and the drive axle installed, the lubricant should be installed into the wheel end. There are two methods of doing this:

With Fill Plug

If the drive hub is equipped with a fill plug in the barrel of the hub, install one quart of the same type of lubricant that is used in the axle reservoir, through the fill plug in the barrel of the hub. Verify that lubricant in the axle sump is filled to the bottom of the fill plug hole in the axle housing. Additional lubricant will be supplied to the wheel end through the axle tube during operation.

Without Fill Plug

If there is no fill plug in the barrel of the hub, the lubricant should be installed into the wheel end through axle articulation. Verify that the axle reservoir is filled to the bottom of the fill plug hole in the axle housing. Use a jack to lift each end of the drive axle eight (8) inches to move the lubricant to the opposite wheel end. Hold the axle up for two (2) minutes to allow the lubricant enough time to fill the wheel end. Repeat this process for the opposite side of the vehicle.

Lower the axle and recheck the lubricant level in the axle reservoir. Refill the axle reservoir to the bottom of the fill plug hole. Additional lubricant will be supplied to the wheel end through the axle tube during operation.

Following the above guidelines will go a long way towards keeping your vehicles out of the service bay and on the road.