

# Service Bulletin

## Fifth Wheels

### FWAL Fifth Wheel Seasonal Maintenance

February 2012

**IMPORTANT:** All maintenance must be performed by a trained technician using proper tools and safe procedures.

**NOTE:** In the United States, workshop safety requirements are defined by federal and/or state Occupational Safety and Health Acts. Equivalent laws may exist in other countries. This Service Bulletin is written based on the assumption that OSHA or other applicable employee safety regulations are followed by the location where the work is performed.

**IMPORTANT:** All maintenance must be performed while the tractor is uncoupled from the trailer.

**⚠ WARNING** Failure to properly maintain your fifth wheel could result in tractor trailer separation which, if not avoided, may result in death or serious injury.

The two most important items in eliminating fifth wheel operating difficulties are:

- Proper fifth wheel preventative maintenance
- Proper coupling inspection

### Proper FWAL Fifth Wheel Preventative Maintenance

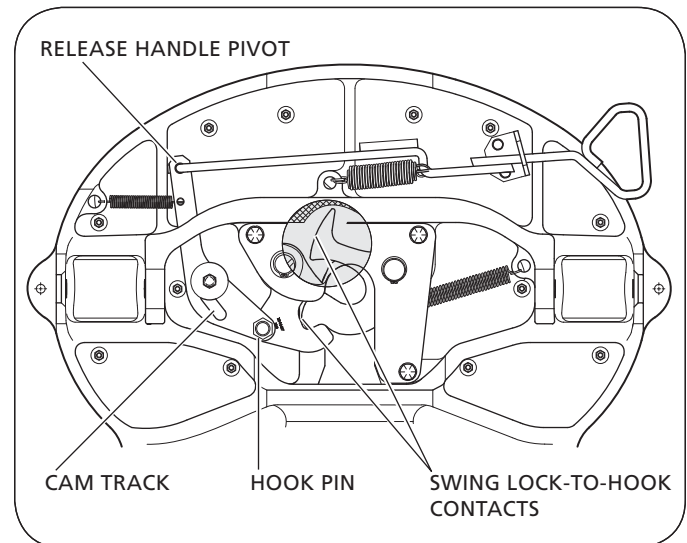
FWAL fifth wheels are equipped with NoLube lock coating technology. The lock components are protected with a low-friction coating which provides long wear life and corrosion protection, eliminating the need for routine lubrication. However, if your fifth wheel operates in snowy or icy winter conditions, maintenance should be performed every spring to ensure optimum operation. FWAL fifth wheels that are exposed to harsh and dry chemicals and/or road salt should be steam cleaned and lubricated as follows:

1. Using water-resistant lithium-based grease, lubricate swing lock-to-hook contact areas, and cam track (**Figure 1**).
2. Using a light oil, lubricate hook pin, and release handle pivot (**Figure 1**).

The locking mechanism of a new FWAL fifth wheel assembly has a thin layer of grease applied by SAF-HOLLAND to aid the components for an initial "break-in" period.

**NOTE:** Grease will not adversely affect an FWAL NoLube fifth wheel.

Figure 1



## Proper Coupling Inspection

A visual inspection, which is required by law as part of the pre-trip inspection, is the best way to ensure a proper couple.

Get out of the tractor and visually inspect the following to be sure lock is closed and tractor and trailer are properly coupled (**Figure 2**).

- Release handle fully retracted with lock notch behind rib.
- No gap is permissible between trailer bolster plate and fifth wheel.
- Hook securely closed behind lock.

Refer to your FWAL Owner's Manual XL-FW10049UM-en-US available on the Internet at [www.safholland.us](http://www.safholland.us) for additional operating, maintenance, and troubleshooting information or contact SAF-HOLLAND Customer Service at 888-396-6501.

**Figure 2**

