

Inspection & Preventive Maintenance Guidelines

Vehicles that operate in states that use aggressive road salts for snow removal containing magnesium and/or calcium chlorides often develop extreme rust and corrosion on many tractor and trailer components. If left unchecked, this corrosion can adversely affect the fifth wheel performance.

Below are a few recommended inspection and preventive maintenance guidelines specifically designed to maintain the performance of the JOST fifth wheel system during the winter season.

Fifth Wheel Topplate Maintenance

Step 1-1) Thoroughly degrease and clean the topplate surface and underside using a shop steam-cleaning device and/or other suitable degreasing product(s).

Step 1-2) Pay particular attention to, removing any grease buildup within and around the lock jaw, throat & the pivot points (see figure 1).

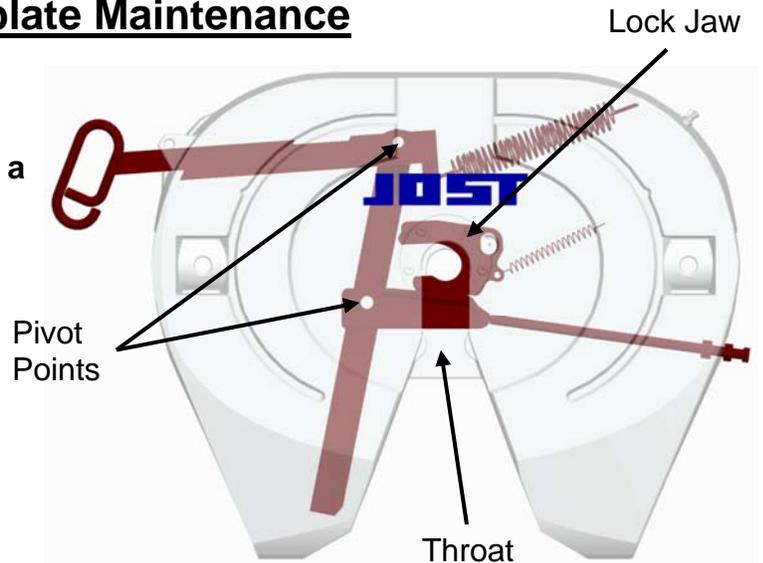
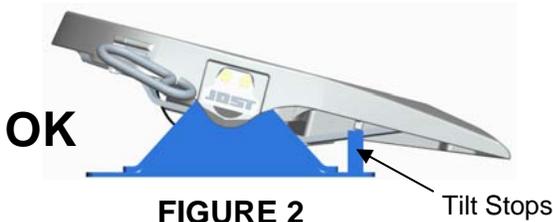


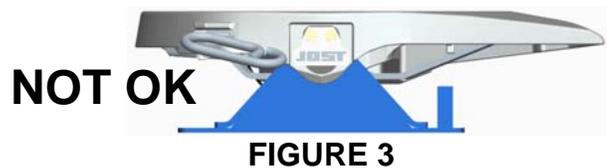
FIGURE 1

Step 1-3) Check for proper fore and aft articulation of the fifth wheel.

When uncoupling, the trailer should slide down the fifth wheel and pickup ramps causing the topplate to articulate onto the rear tilt stops (see figure 2).



If your fifth wheel does not articulate, and maintains a fixed position (see figure 3), you should replace your bracket pins. See [Bracket Pin Replacement Procedure LT-JSK37-57](#).

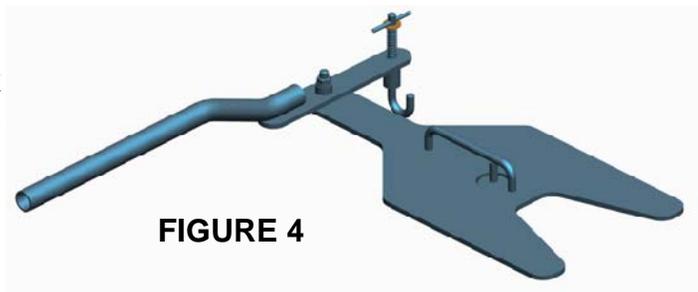


Fifth Wheel Topplate Maintenance Con't

Step 1-4) Inspect all areas and parts for damaged or missing parts. Replace with genuine JOST parts.

Step 1-5) Spray penetrating oil such as PB Blaster or Kroil and lubricate both pivot points underneath topplate (see figure 1).

Step 1-6) Check for proper operation by using a lock tester (shown in figure 4). Lock and unlock the fifth wheel several times.



Step 1-7) Verify that the lock closes completely and is operating properly.

When properly coupled, the release handle should be fully retracted and in the lower notch (see figure 5).



FIGURE 5

In an improper coupling, the release handle will be extended and in the upper notch (see figure 6).



FIGURE 6

The movement should be clean and smooth. If there is resistance felt or the fifth wheel doesn't lock and unlock properly, please refer to the Operating and Maintenance procedures for your Fifth Wheel type.

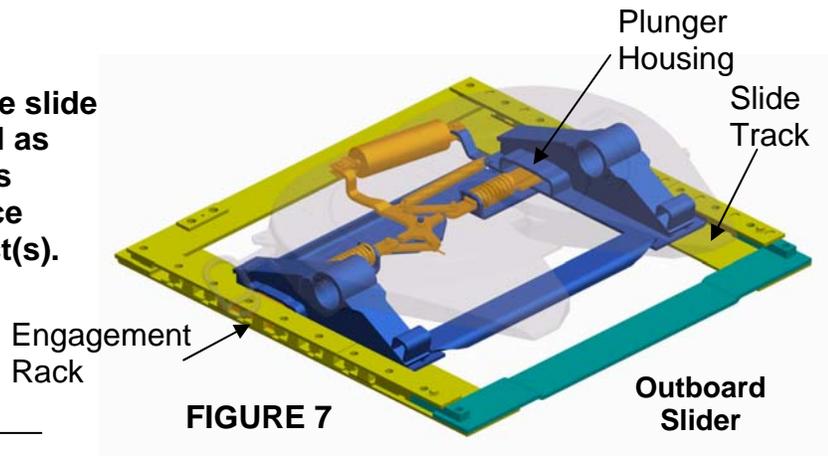
Step 1-8) Apply lithium-based grease with EP additive (extreme pressure) to the trailer contact surface of the fifth wheel.

Fifth Wheel Slide System

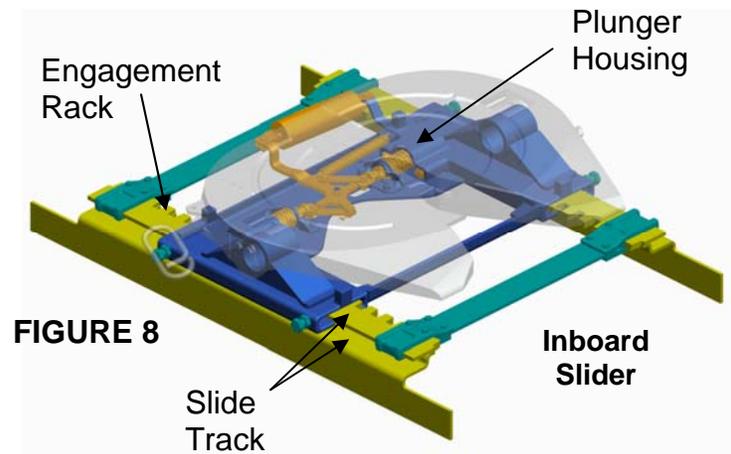
Step 2-1) Unlock the slide release mechanism. If the release mechanism will not unlock please refer to the following documents.

- LT JSK37-51 – Troubleshooting for Outboard Sliding Fifth Wheels (figure 7)
- LT JSK37-60 – Troubleshooting for Inboard Sliding Fifth Wheels (figure 8)

Step 2-2) Thoroughly degrease and clean the slide track and engagement rack as well as the plungers and plunger housings using a shop steam cleaning device and/or suitable degreasing product(s).



Step 2-3) Pay particular attention to, removing any grease buildup in the slide release mechanism that would inhibit free rotation of the pivot arm.

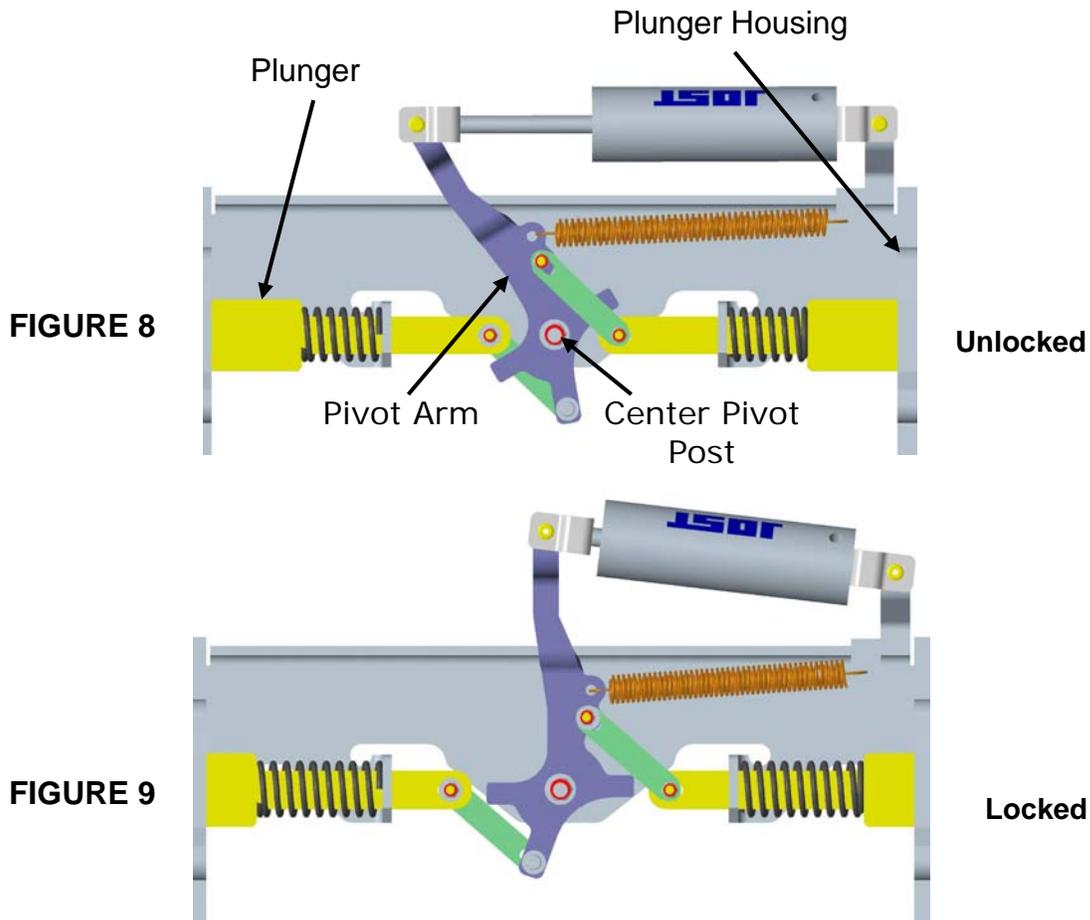


Step 2-4) Inspect all areas and parts for damaged or missing parts. Replace with genuine JOST parts.

Fifth Wheel Slide System con't

Step 2-5) Spray penetrating oil such as PB Blaster or Kroil and lubricate both slide plungers inside the plunger housings, the slide track and center pivot post where pivot arm rotates.

Slide Release Mechanism



Step 2-6) Lock and unlock the slide mechanism several times and leave slide in the locked position.

Step 2-7) If the release mechanism will not operate properly contact Jost Customer Service at (800) 253-5105.