

COLD WEATHER MAINTENANCE

COMPLAINT:

Driver reports that fifth wheel has become difficult to operate and fifth wheel parts are not moving freely.

CONDITION:

Weather is consistently below freezing, and the grease around the lock mechanism has become firm and non-pliable.

DIAGNOSIS:

An examination of the fifth wheel reveals a large buildup of grease and road grime on the underside of the fifth wheel plate.

THE CAUSE:

The buildup of grease and road grime around the lock has become very firm, restricting the free travel of the fifth wheel moving parts. The Jaw and Wedge are prevented from closing properly. The main cause is the weather conditions (consistently below freezing).

THE CURE:

Remove all old grease and road grime from the fifth wheel (for fifth wheels equipped with sliders, remove the grease and road grime from the slider mechanism as well). It is recommended that a good steam cleaning be performed on the fifth wheel.

Once the wheel is clean, lubricate the top plate per the pre-service instructions in the Fontaine Fifth Wheel Instructions Handbook – Section II. The lock mechanism should be lubricated with a 90 weight oil, as per the recommendation in TB-008 – Cold Weather Maintenance .

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Fontaine Fifth Wheel Instructions Handbook
2. Technical Bulletin TB-008 -Cold Weather Maintenance



TYPICAL ACTION DESCRIPTION:

Fifth wheel cleaned and lubricated, lock closes quickly and slide assembly moves freely after above procedure.

WARRANTY:

See Warranty Standard; or Warranty Claim Procedure / SRT Chart for additional information.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Videos, Technical Bulletins and Instruction Handbooks for all necessary maintenance and repair of Fontaine Fifth Wheel products are available at no charge by calling (800) 874-9780.