



February 1st, 2011

Subject: Ultra LT Fifth Wheel Product Enhancement

Dear ,

It has been brought to our attention at Fontaine Fifth Wheel that during the coupling process with our Ultra LT model fifth wheel it is possible for the driver to partially close the fifth wheel lock, and if solely relying on a tug test (pull test), think that the fifth wheel lock is properly coupled to the trailer king pin when in fact it is not properly coupled. This occurs when the driver is relying on the sound of the lock closing and a tug test with no visual inspection of the fifth wheel after coupling. In the situation described above, a visual inspection of the lock indicator on the pull handle and the locking wedge, as clearly described in the instruction handbook (LT-149), indicates that the fifth wheel lock is not properly closed. We would like to emphasize that the sound of the fifth wheel closing and a tug test are not reliable indicators to determine if any fifth wheel lock is properly closed regardless of the model or manufacturer of the fifth wheel. The only recommended and reliable way to determine if a fifth wheel is properly closed is to perform a visual inspection of the fifth wheel, as described in the instruction handbook (LT-149), after coupling with a trailer.

We have developed a product enhancement intended to increase greatly the likelihood that the fifth wheel will release a trailer if the lock is partially closed and a tug test is conducted. We would like to stress that this product enhancement in no way relieves the drivers from their responsibility of following the recommended coupling procedure, as described in the instruction handbook (LT-149), and performing a visual inspection of the fifth wheel after coupling to a trailer. This visual inspection is the only certain way to determine that a fifth wheel is properly coupled to a trailer. As described below, we have also developed additional training material to assist in training your drivers on how to perform this inspection.

We achieve this product enhancement by replacing the current lock bar in the fifth wheel with a lock bar that has been modified. We will provide this product enhancement to you free of charge. This enhancement requires that the fifth wheel be removed from the lower mounting assembly. After removal, the current lock bar is removed and replaced with a modified lock bar. The fifth wheel is then reinstalled on the lower mounting assembly. A kit with the necessary components and detailed instructions will be provided for each of your Ultra LT fifth wheels produced within this serial number range, 306810001 to 300811999. We will be in contact with you to arrange shipment of the required kits. This procedure takes approximately 45 minutes to perform.

In addition to the instruction handbook (LT-149) that is supplied with each fifth wheel, we have developed additional training material, both in writing (LT-161) and in video format (LT-166). This material will assist you in training your drivers on the proper fifth wheel coupling procedure. Please contact either your sales representative or customer service at 1-800-874-9780 to obtain copies of this training material. Outside the United States call 205-661-4900. This training material is also available online at www.fifthwheel.com. The specific links for this material are listed below.

Instruction Handbook LT-149 - http://www.fifthwheel.com/pdfs/literature/LT-149_UltraLTInstructions.pdf

Coupling / Uncoupling Flyer LT-161 - http://www.fifthwheel.com/pdfs/literature/LT-161_LT_HD-HR-Couple-Uncouple.pdf

Coupling Video LT-166 - <http://www.fifthwheel.com/video-ultra-coupling.html>

Sincerely,

Steven Mann
Vice President - Engineering
Fontaine Fifth Wheel