

Subject: Bonded Baserail Inspection

Date: 6/14/2024

Rev.: FR

No.: B24002

Re.: Refrigerated Van Trailers

Type: Inspection

Priority: As stated below

Units Affected: 521

Background: The baserail may become separated while the trailer is being loaded, unloaded, or operated. Separation of the base rail and side wall could compromise the trailer floor. If such separation occurs while the vehicle is in operation, compromises to the floor could cause a shift or loss of cargo and could reduce operator control of the trailer.

The separation of this connection is progressive in nature and may be identified visually in advance of failure; visual inspection is required until units can be repaired.

Tools Needed:

- A thin, flat metal shim, flexible putty knife, or other thin, flexible tool can be used to check for bondline separations.



CAUTION!

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment [PPE] like gloves, safety glasses and hard hat for example, when carrying out the following procedure.
- Should welding or cutting be needed, do so in a well-ventilated area and wear appropriate head/face/eye protection, welding gloves and clothing.
- Refer to adhesive and chemical manufacturer's MSDS for safe use and handling instructions if applicable.
- Follow your company's safety procedures in addition to these recommendations.
- Follow industry standards for installation and tightening of all fasteners where torque values are not called out

Procedure:

1. Definition:

- a. Baserail – The 10.25” tall aluminum extrusion that runs along the length of the trailer connecting the sidewall to the floor.
- b. Floor support angle – The 1.5” x 2” L-shaped aluminum extrusion that runs along the length of the trailer underneath the floor.
- c. Interior floor angle – The 3” x 4” L-shaped aluminum extrusion that runs along the length of the trailer in the trailer’s interior connecting the sidewall to the floor.

2. Inspection:

- An extensive pre-trip inspection must be completed on a trailer before leaving for transit. If the trailer will be hauling a load, the signs of separation would be easier to detect once loaded.
- Walk along and observe the top of the baserail to look for the following:
 - a. Signs of caulk separation or cracking longer than 1 inch between the baserail and the wall. Note that signs may be subtle and must be observed closely. Examples are shown in Figure 3, Figure 2, and Figure 5.
 - b. Signs of baserail separation or bulging from the wall. An example is shown in Figure 4Figure 1.
- Walk along and observe the bottom of the baserail and floor support angle to look for the following:
 - a. Signs of baserail separation or bulging from the floor. Examples are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 7.
 - b. Signs of caulk separation or cracking longer than 1 inch between the floor support angle and the floor. Note that signs may be subtle and must be observed closely.
 - c. Signs of floor support angle separation from the wall. Examples are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 9.
- If interior of the trailer is accessible, walk along the interior and observe the interior floor angle to look for the following:
 - a. Signs of caulk separation or cracking longer than 1 inch between the interior floor angle and the interior sidewall or aluminum floorboards. Note that signs may be subtle and must be observed closely. An example is shown in Figure 8.
 - b. Signs of interior floor angle separation from the interior sidewall or aluminum floorboards.
- Repeat all steps on both sides of the trailer.



Figure 3: Caulk separation from baserail.



Figure 2: Caulk Separation from the baserail.



Figure 5: Caulk cracking.



Figure 4: Baserail separation from sidewall.



Figure 1: Baserail bulging at bottom.
View from side of trailer.



Figure 7: Baserail bulging at bottom.
View from underneath trailer.



Figure 6: Floor support angle separation from floor.



Figure 9: Floor support angle separation from floor.



Figure 8: Interior floor angle caulk line failure.

Next Steps: If an inspection shows any of these signs, the units should be taken out of service until repairs can be made. Contact the Wabash Warranty Department to report the issue at 800-247-2548, Monday – Friday, 7:00am – 4:00pm, ET.