

AXLES

Questions

1. When towable RV units reach the dealership, why do the bearings show no signs of being greased?
2. Should the dealership grease the bearing to ensure safe operation of Lippert Axles?

ProcedureWheel Bearing Grease Is Applied In A Semi-Automated Process:

1. The bearing grease process starts by loading the raw drums on the assembly line.
2. Next, the outer bearing is loaded into the outer bearing nest.
3. The seal and inner bearing are placed on the mandrel.
4. Quality assurance begins with a picture being taken confirming the outer bearing is present and in the correct orientation.
5. The machine will then take a picture of the seal and inner bearing to verify they are also present and in the correct orientation.
6. With the drum, outer bearing nest, and the seal and inner bearing mandrel confirmed present and in position, the seal and inner bearing mandrel retracts.
7. In the lower greasing clam shell, the machine will follow the greasing sequence as programmed, injecting grease into the inner bearing assembly.
8. The machine then takes a picture of both halves confirming the grease process meets lippert standards.
9. Once the standards for the inner bearing are met, the system will then follow the same procedure for the outer bearing, taking a picture of the outer bearing greasing process confirming it meets lippert standards.
10. When the camera conditions are met for both the inner bearing assembly and the outer bearing, a raw drum will then be moved into place. Centering pins and a wedge advance the drum into the correct pressing location.
11. Once the drum is in place, the mandrel with the seal and inner bearing assembly will be pressed into the raw drum.
12. Next, the outer bearing will be picked from the nest and placed into the drum. The machine will then take a picture to confirm the outer bearing was not left in the outer greasing nest.
13. The completed drum will then advance out of the machine.

NOTE: Throughout this process, cameras have been positioned and utilized to ensure quality and consistency in our grease packs. If at any time in this process the cameras pick up any sort of inconsistency, the system will stop operating and the concern will be addressed before the process can continue.

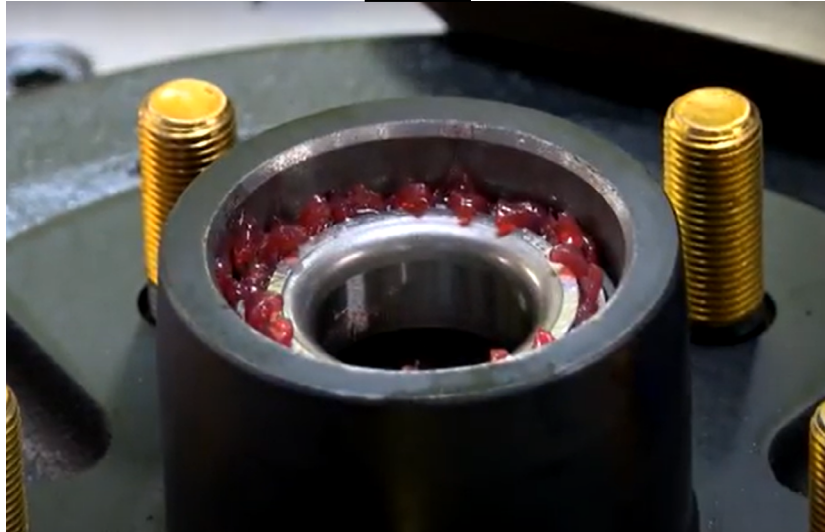
Conclusion

1. Lippert bearings do not need greased at the dealership when the RVs are received.
2. Lippert bearings should only be greased thereafter at their scheduled mileage intervals.

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NOTE: The image below is of the moment the hub comes off the bearing greasing machine and before it is installed on an axle spindle and the cap is put in place (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1



NOTE: When the towable unit arrives at the dealer from the OEM, the unit is inspected. When the cap is removed from the axle hub, the spindle, spindle nut and grease zerk are exposed. Because the spindle nut is on the outside of the bearing/seal group, it is difficult to see any bearing grease present in the assembly. Through Lippert Quality Assurance, all hubs have been properly greased and do not require any additional grease until the maintenance mileage rating has been reached.

Fig. 2

