Coupling Procedures
Fontaine Fifth Wheel No-Slack®
6000, 7000, 7000CC, NT and H7

1
Make sure fifth wheel is open and lubricated and handle is extended

MAKE SURE HANDLE IS EXTENDED AND LOCK IS OPEN. Ensure that the fifth wheel jaw and wedge are out of the throat and the pull handle is in the extended position.

2
Tilted down and at proper height

MAKE SURE FIFTH WHEEL IS TILTED DOWN IN THE REAR RESTING ON THE STOPS, AND THAT IT IS AT THE PROPER HEIGHT IN RELATION TO THE TRAILER. Back up toward the trailer and stop just before the fifth wheel reaches the front of the trailer. Suspension airbags should be fully inflated. Get out of the cab and make sure the fifth wheel is at the proper height to slightly lift the trailer when you back up under it. To establish proper coupling height, raise or lower the trailer by adjusting the landing legs. Then slowly ease the tractor backward until the fifth wheel connects with the kingpin.

WARNING: If the trailer is too low or too high, damage to the fifth wheel and trailer will occur. Never inflate the suspension airbags when the fifth wheel is positioned under the trailer. This may result in damage to the fifth wheel and/or incorrect coupling possibly resulting in serious personal injury or death. At the proper coupling height, the fifth wheel slightly lifts the trailer when the fifth wheel makes contact with the leading edge of the trailer.

3
Verify there is no space

No space between top of fifth wheel and trailer kingpin plate

WARNING: There should be no space between the fifth wheel and the kingpin plate on the trailer. If there is space, the kingpin is not coupled. In that case, lower the landing gear, disconnect the electrical and air lines, and slowly ease the tractor forward until the fifth wheel comes out from under the trailer. Inspect the fifth wheel including the lock for any damaged caused by the improper coupling attempt. If damage is found, repair or replace the fifth wheel before attempting to re-couple to the trailer. Repeat the coupling procedure until there is no space between the fifth wheel and the kingpin plate on the trailer.

4
Handle retracted

MAKE SURE THE PULL HANDLE IS FULLY RETRACTED (CLOSED POSITION) AND THE JAW AND WEDGE ARE IN CLOSED POSITION ACROSS THE THROAT OF FIFTH WHEEL.

Use a flashlight and go under the trailer and look into the back of the throat of the fifth wheel. The locking mechanism should be engaged across the entire throat of the fifth wheel and secured to the kingpin.

WARNING: The visual inspection is required by law. The tractor trailer combination should never be operated until the visual inspection is performed.
Uncoupling Procedures
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1 Lower landing legs

LOWER THE LANDING LEGS. Lock the trailer brakes, and back slowly into the trailer to ease pressure on the fifth wheel locking jaw. Engage the parking brake while the tractor is pushing against the kingpin. Then, chock the trailer wheels and lower the landing legs. Make sure that the trailer is positioned on a level surface that will support the weight of the trailer.

2 Disconnect cables

DISCONNECT ALL CABLES. Disconnect the air and electrical lines from the trailer.

3 Disengage lock

Hint: If necessary, tap the wedge stop rod with a hammer to release a tight wedge.

If you have an air actuated fifth wheel:

Open fifth wheel with release valve located on the dash or in a lock box mounted on the rear of the cab. To open, set the tractor parking brake and pull the release valve. Hold the valve open until the locking mechanism is locked in the open position (this may take a few seconds). The pull valve will not activate the air cylinder unless the tractor parking brakes are set. In the event of an air system failure, release the fifth wheel lock by pulling the handle.

4 Ease out from under trailer

EASE OUT FROM UNDER THE TRAILER. Pull forward slowly until the fifth wheel clears the kingpin. Dump the air from the tractor suspension, and drive carefully away from under the trailer.

WARNING: Do not dump suspension airbags prior to opening the fifth wheel lock. This will cause a difficult to open condition and possibly damage the fifth wheel lock.

IMPORTANT: Fontaine Training Videos are a great resource that can save time and improve the efficiency of your business. Subjects cover coupling and uncoupling a fifth wheel, rebuilding, maintenance and more. Check them out at: http://fifthwheel.com/videos/ or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

IMPORTANT: For more information consult Instruction booklet (LT-001) at http://www.fifthwheel.com/literature/ or scan this QR code with your mobile device.