

Coupling Procedures Checklist

1. Inspect Fifth Wheel

Check for damaged/missing parts and proper lubrication.

Make sure fifth wheel is tilted toward rear of tractor, jaws open and release handle in the automatic position.

2. Position Tractor Squarely in Front of Trailer; Never Drive under Trailer at an Angle

Use left mirror to lineup outside edge of left rear outer dual wheel with outer edge of trailer.

Check alignment by sighting down side of trailer.

Make final check with both mirrors to make sure tractor-trailer is aligned.

3. Back Slowly until Jaws Just Touch Pickup Apron of Trailer

4. Secure the Trailer

5. Inspect the Area and Chock Front and Back of Left Trailer Wheels

Secure any cargo against movement of tractor coupling.

If trailer is equipped with spring loaded brakes, it is not necessary to chock wheels.

6. Make Visual Check of Trailer Height

Trailer should be slightly lower than fifth wheel.

Never go under trailer that is not supported by tractor.

7. Connect Air Lines to Trailer

Check washers (rubber grommets) on all four glad hands to make sure they are not damaged and glad hands are properly seated to prevent air leaks.

Make sure air lines are safely supported so they won't be crushed or caught while tractor is backing under the trailer.

Make sure there is enough slack that glad hands won't become uncoupled.

8. Supply Air to Trailer

Apply and release trailer brake to check for crossed lines.

Check system for signs of excessive air loss.

9. Apply Trailer Brakes to Prepare for Backing under Trailer

Use trailer spring brakes if there are no trailer brakes

If there are no trailer brake or spring brakes, make sure trailer wheels are firmly chocked against movement

Coupling Procedures Checklist

10. Back Slowly under Trailer until Fifth Wheel Engages Kingpin

Be prepared for tractor to jump when it squats from trailer weight; if this happens, brake fast to keep air lines from being torn off.

11. Check Connection for Security by Pulling Tractor Gently Forward

12. Repeat Step 11, Then Release Trailer Brake

13. Secure Vehicle

14. Visually Inspect Coupling

Need to use flashlight and get under trailer.

Fifth wheel must be engaged on shank of kingpin and there should be no space between upper and lower fifth wheel.

Locking lever must be in "lock" position.

Safety catch must be in position over hocking lever; sometimes this is done manually or with a cotter pin

15. Connect the Electrical Cable

Don't force the connection if it doesn't fit.

If plug is not compatible with trailer connector, use a converter plug.

Make sure safety catch or latch is engaged after it plug is firmly seated.

Make sure air and electrical lines are properly secured/suspended.

16. Raise Landing Gear

Check to make sure there is adequate clearance between rear of tractor frame and landing gear to accommodate arc of tractor frame on sharp turns (especially important with tandem axle tractor and/or sliding fifth wheel).

Landing gear must be fully raised and crank handle safely secured

17. Remove Tractor Wheel Chocks and Stow in Safe Place

UNCOUPLING PROCEDURES

1. Position Vehicle

Position tractor directly in front of trailer

Make sure surface can support trailer; use trailer supports if necessary

2. Apply the Trailer Brake

3. Place Tractor Protection Valve in Emergency Position

4. Secure Landing Gear

5. Lower Landing Gear

Empty trailer: lower to firm contact with surface

Loaded trailer: turn crank in lower gear a few extra turns (enough to remote some weight from tractor suspension)

6. Disconnect Air Lines and Central Cable

Secure lines against snagging or other damage

7. Release Fifth Wheel Latch

If handle will not move, release trailer brake and back tractor gently to ease pressure

If you cannot reach latch, use pull handle or hook

Keep feet and legs clear of tractor wheels as tractor can be pushed forward

8. Pull Tractor Partially Clear of Trailer

Stop with tractor frame stubs under trailer to prevent trailer from falling to ground if landing gear collapses or sinks

9. Secure Tractor

10. Inspect Trailer Supports

Use trailer safety jack under nose of trailer if necessary

11. Pull Tractor Completely Clear of Trailer