

# Submerged tractor/trailer wheel end service requirements

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## Tech tip

With the fall hurricane season comes the need for special attention to tractor and trailer wheel ends. Whenever a wheel is submerged in water, the equipment needs to be thoroughly inspected before returning to service. This technical bulletin covers any manually adjusted wheel end with SKF seals and/or bearings. Refer to ConMet Service Bulletin #10023668 dated June 28, 2008 for PreSet hub assemblies.

### Warning:

Flood waters could contain hazardous materials. Caution needs to be taken whenever servicing wheel ends exposed to contaminated flood water and protective gear should be worn (ie: gloves, mask, clothing etc). Consult with the EPA with regards to proper method of disposal of anything exposed or contaminated by the flood water.

### Procedure:

- 1) Take a sample of lubricant from each wheel end. Check color. Oil contaminated with water will turn milky white. Semi fluid grease color will depend on its original base color but it will have a milky appearance if water is present. Feel for presence of hard particles or grit. If lubricant is in good condition, replace hubcap and fill to appropriate level. If contaminants found, continue to next step.
- 2) Drain lubricant from hub following the EPA handling and disposal procedures.
- 3) Disassemble wheel end.
- 4) Inspect bearings for signs of rusting, water corrosion or other abnormalities. Replace both inner and outer bearing sets (cup and cone) if any of these conditions are present.
- 5) Clean hub and axle and inspect for signs of rust, water corrosion or other abnormalities. Use an emery cloth to properly prepare surface.
- 6) Use solvent to clean any components including the hub that will be put back into service. Again, be sure to follow the EPA procedures for handling and disposal of waste water. Dry thoroughly. *Do not use compressed air on bearings as it could cause damage.*
- 7) Re-assemble wheel end following SKF TFO (literature #457975) procedures found at [www.vsm.skf.com](http://www.vsm.skf.com) or call SKF customer service at 1 800-882-0008.

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