

# PHILLIPS

## Qwik Tech Tips

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### FEATURED PRODUCT

#### Anodized Swinger Gladhand

- GLADHAND SWIVELS 180° WITHOUT KINKING AIR LINE!
- Anodized for increased protection against magnesium chloride, road salt and chemicals
- When not in use, the gladhand is automatically returned to seal, protecting the air lines



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PAST ISSUES

### Winter Air Hose Maintenance

Cold weather can create many problems with a tractor trailer including air system freeze-ups. To help prevent this from happening it is recommended that the air brake system be checked regularly for excessive leakage and that reservoirs are constantly drained. Air dryers should also be inspected to make sure they are functioning properly as well.

Checking the air brake system for excessive leakage is important because it can cause the compressor to pump more air and moisture into the brake system. And more moisture means more chance for freeze-ups.

For air systems without an air dryer, routinely draining the air system helps reduce the possibility of freeze-ups. All reservoirs in a system can accumulate water and contaminants which must be drained, and should be drained daily. During the winter season, it may be beneficial to drain the system more than once daily. There are two methods to drain the reservoirs. One is to shut off the engine and then drain all the air from each reservoir. The other is to open all the drain cocks on all the reservoirs and leave them open over night to drain all contamination.

Automatic drain valves installed on a truck eliminate the need for daily reservoir draining; however, their function should be checked before the winter weather sets in. Even though automatic drain valves may be in place, manual draining of the lines is still required periodically.

For those air systems with an air dryer it is very important that the dryer functions properly to ensure the air system is running clean and dry. To help maintain proper operation, make sure to change the desiccant cartridge and purge the valve as necessary.

Other preventative measures:

Use dummy hose couplings on the tractor and trailer.

To avoid water traps within the hose check for drooping lines.

If the lines do become frozen:

The only way to thaw the lines without causing damage to the air system is to park the vehicle in a warm building. Once the lines have been thawed, only remove the vehicle back into the outdoors when it is ready to go into operation again. Parking the vehicle outside immediately after thawing the air system can cause condensation which will re-freeze the system.

DO NOT apply an open flame to the air lines or valves. Not only can this damage the valves and melt the air lines, but it's dangerous and can cause a fire.

DO NOT pour fluids into the air lines or gladhands. This can cause damage to the rubber components. It can also wash lubricants out of valves. Without lubricant, valves will not operate properly, causing accelerated wear which leads to premature replacement. Liquid can also collect in the brake chamber and valves, and cause malfunction.



- Checking for excessive leakage, draining the air system daily, and maintaining air dryers for proper function will help keep the air lines from freezing.
- If the air lines do become frozen, the only safe way to unthaw them is to move the vehicle into a warm building. The vehicle should only be moved back outside into the cold weather elements again when it is ready to be placed into immediate operation.
- DO NOT use an open flame to thaw the lines which is dangerous and can cause damage to the air system.
- DO NOT pour any liquids into the lines. This will cause damage to the rubber components and wash lubricants away.