

Safety Bulletin: Operating the Landing Gear

Parking

Be sure to park the trailer on level ground. This will ensure safe coupling and uncoupling. Find a spot on the yard or site that has level ground. If the trailer is loaded, or will be parked for a long period, ensure to use trailer pads.

Try avoid parking the trailer near vehicle traffic. This will reduce the risk of being struck by a vehicle while operating the landing gear.

Raising/lowering the landing gear

Ensure to use the appropriate gear for raising or lowering the trailer. Most landing gears consist of two speeds:

Low gear: use for lowering or raising the trailer while the landing gear is under load. The amount of force required is lower, therefore, reducing the risk of a shoulder or back injury.

High gear: use for lowering or raising the trailer while the landing gear is NOT under load. Only use the high gear if all the weight of the trailer is supported by fifth wheel.

Maintain a safe posture while operating the landing gear to minimize the strain on the back and shoulders.

In low gear, the shoulders should be perpendicular to the trailer. In other words, shoulders should be facing the front of the trailer. Both hands should be on the handle while cranking.

In high gear, face the trailer and place one hand on the trailer for support. Place the other hand on the handle to crank the landing gear.

Maintenance of landing gear

Landing gear must be regularly lubricated. Check with the equipment during the pre-trip inspection and report any issues found on the trip inspection report and submit to supervisor or manager.

You can also check the maintenance schedule or with the supervisor or manager to ensure the landing gear has been recently lubricated. If you notice any issues in operating the landing gear, be sure to report to the supervisor or manager.