

TIPS FOR MOVING-FLOOR DRIVERS



Keep your oil cool on the hottest summer days



Summer is here again. In some parts of Europe the mercury gets up to above 30°C. Which is great if you're on holiday, but high temperatures also mean risks for all makes of moving-floor trailers. If the outside temperature gets really hot, then your hydraulic oil will too. Then the seals on your cylinders can burn: an unwanted cost that can be unexpectedly very high. Knapen Trailers' specialists provide you with handy tips to keep your oil cool even on the hottest summer days.

Tip 1: Check your oil temperature several times during each unloading

The maximum oil temperature is 60 - 70°C. Above this temperature the seals of your cylinders will burn. But how can you measure the temperature of your oil without a thermometer? Simple: very carefully hold the back of your hand against the hydraulic tank (see photo). Be careful to do this tentatively! If you can hold your hand against the tank wall, your oil is cooler than 60 - 70°C and you don't need to worry about overheating. If you can't hold your hand against the oil tank during unloading, your oil is too hot and you should switch off the PTO immediately. Then there is nothing for it but to wait until your oil has cooled down. Carrying on unloading will just cause high repair costs.

Tip 2: Always set off with a full hydraulic oil tank

The more litres of hydraulic oil there are in your tank, the better the oil can cool itself. This principle is the same as for boiling water at home: 1 litre of water will boil much faster than, for example, 4 litres of water. The fuller your hydraulic oil tank, the smaller the risk of overheating. However, do not overfill your hydraulic oil tank, as the oil also needs room to expand as a result of the heat. Up to the level indicator is the right level.

Tip 3: Switch the PTO on for as short a time as possible

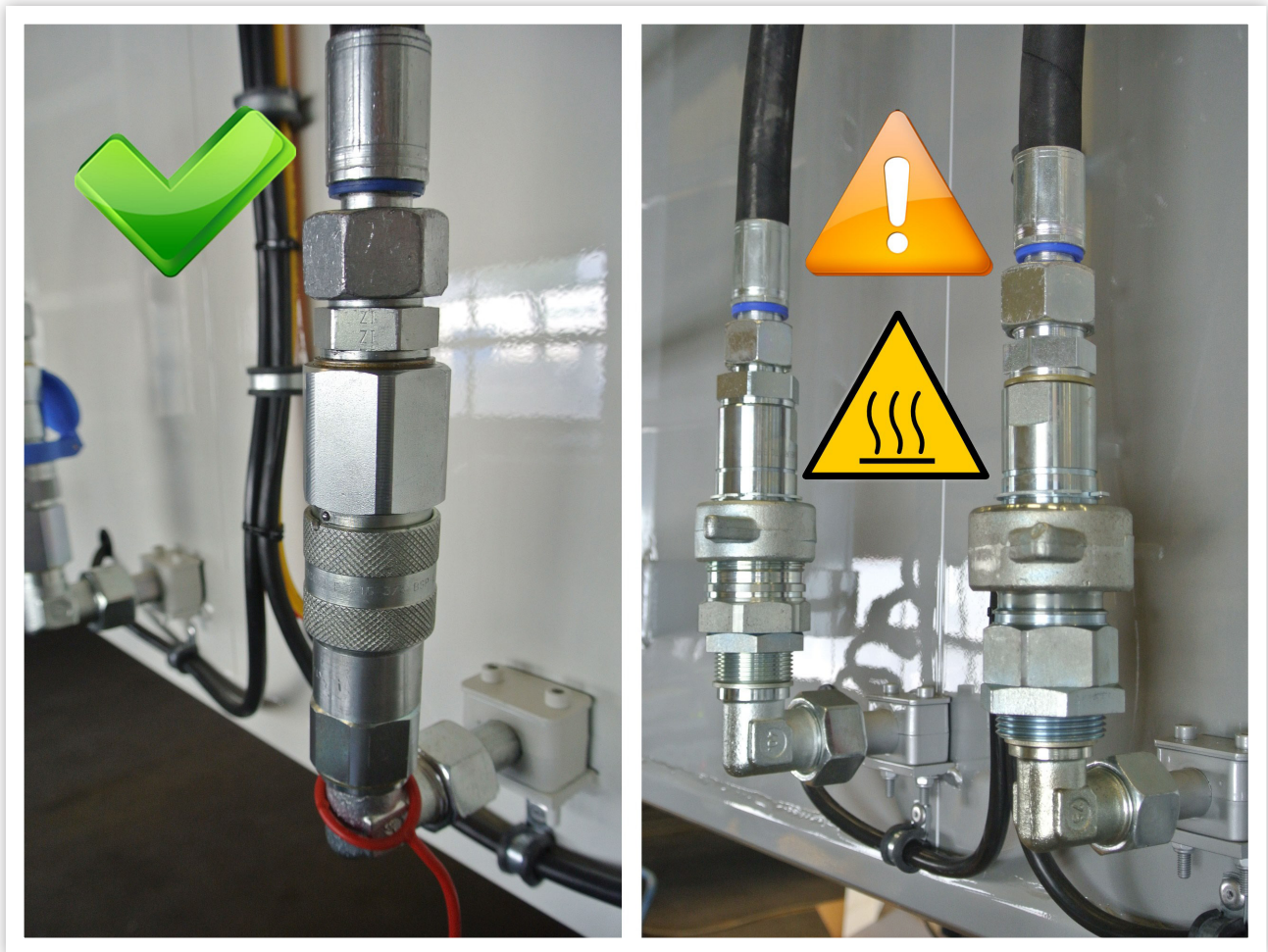
Hydraulic oil becomes hot as a result of friction or as a result of the flow of the oil. When the PTO is switched on, the oil is pumped through the system and slowly gets hotter and hotter. So it is important that you don't switch on the PTO until just before you start unloading. So first of all open the doors and get everything ready for unloading and only then switch on the PTO. And, once you have finished unloading, switch the PTO off again immediately. This will avoid your oil being pumped around the system unnecessarily and thus getting hot unnecessarily. This will also save fuel.



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Tip 4: Check rotary couplings regularly

On the truck there are hydraulic hoses that are connected to the trailer by rotary couplings. Knapen Trailers moving-floor trailers are supplied with quick-release couplings as standard (see photo). However, some makes of moving-floor trailer may have rotary couplings (see photo). If your trailer has rotary couplings, you should check these regularly. A rotary coupling can become loose as the hose pulls on the coupling during steering and can cause the coupling to twist. If this happens, the oil will not leak immediately but there will be a narrowing in the coupling, which will cause the oil temperature to rise unnecessarily. So ensure that rotary couplings are always securely fastened... That is: if your trailer has rotary couplings.



Are you a driver of a moving-floor trailer with a handy tip for your colleagues? Send your tip to marketing@knapen-trailers.nl and you could see it featured in the next newsletter.