

ASK ANDY: Corken WINTER Pump Maintenance

QUESTION: What type of maintenance does the pump require on my truck? We are using Corken's Z-Series pumps in our fleet.

ANSWER: In the winter, pump seals more commonly fail due to the lower gas pressure in the pump caused by colder temperatures. Overgreasing causes contamination of the mechanical seals, often resulting in seal failure. This is evidenced by an obvious leak through the grease fittings, pump vents, and the shaft leaving the pump. The Corken Z-Series pumps are designed to hold approximately 2-1/2 pumps of grease, unlike competitor pumps that have a large grease cavity. These large cavity pumps hold more grease, but the outside grease is easily contaminated. When you add new grease, the contaminated grease is pushed into the bearings, causing frequent pump seal and bearing failures. The Corken Z-Series pumps are designed to eliminate that problem.

Before attempting any pump maintenance, make sure all safety systems are in place and you have reviewed your applicable company policies and service manuals. First, make sure the grease vent is free, by lifting up on the stem. The vent can get stuck with paint, grime or become frozen shut. You need to make sure it is working freely so that it can serve as a filling indicator and vent, as designed. There are 2 lubrication points in which to grease the pump bearings; one grease fitting (zerk) per bearing cap located at the opposite ends of the pump. First, clean the grease fitting then insert the grease gun over the grease fitting. Make sure you do not mistake the seal vent for the grease fitting! Please refer to the diagram in this article. Slowly begin to apply ball bearing grease (temperature rating between -30° to -70° F). Carefully watch the grease vent. As the chamber fills, the vent will begin to rise. Once the vent rises, stop applying grease. If grease oozes from the vent, you have overfilled the chamber. Repeat the procedure on the other side. The Corken Z-Model pump will give you years of worry-free service with regular maintenance and care. On a daily basis you should also be checking for leaks and inspect hose fittings. Lubricate the bearing monthly. Every 3 months, inspect the drive coupling.

