



THOMPSON VACUUM-PRESSURE UNITS

SIDE OSCILLATING FIFTH WHEEL PLATES

A Semi-Trailer Tank is like a torque tube and does not twist like a flat bed. Off-highway conditions exert oscillating stresses on the pin, plate, fifth wheel and truck frame. Semi-Trailer Cargo Tanks in the jackknifed position with the rear lower or higher than the tractor will exert a tremendous amount of stress on these components and in some extreme cases will lift the outside drivers off the ground. These stresses can cause severe damage in just a few weeks or months.

Fifth Wheels that are designed for highway service are usually light weight assemblies that only oscillate fore and aft and typically have a mounting Height of 48 inches.

The Side Oscillating Fifth Wheels can eliminate and prevent these stresses from causing this damage and prevent very expensive repairs. (Side Oscillating Fifth Wheels can be furnished with lock outs to provide the stability required when hauling a flatbed). They typically have the mounting height of between 54 to 58 inches that is required for hauling Semi-Trailer Tanks with a rear discharge.

Vacuum-Pressure Tanks require a Fifth Wheel mounting height of 54 to 58 inches to operate properly. Although Thompson Semi-Trailer VP Tanks have the lowest center of gravity in the business they will still be, depending on tire size, level or slightly sloped to the front when coupled with a 48" high fifth wheel. The result is that the tank cannot be completely drained or washed out causing corrosion and pitting on the interior of the bottom sections of the Shell and heads.

Also the Air pocket is in the TOP REAR of the tank, not in the TOP FRONT where the Primary Float Shut Off Valve and Bleeder are located resulting in slosh and carry over, during loading and transportation, into Scrubber and LEP (Secondary Float Shut Off), overloading the Air System, and eventually are injected into the Vacuum-Pressure Pump. This reverse slope will also prevent filling the tank to capacity.

Every Vacuum-Pressure Tank requires a minimum of 4 to 8 inches of slope to the rear to operate efficiently and prevent costly repairs. Thompson Tank can furnish a high mount fifth wheel plate and pin that will add approximately 3 more inches of slope to the rear, but it is not recommended to be used in place of a Side Oscillating Fifth Wheel assembly.

The best investment and least expensive in the long haul is to upgrade your Fifth Wheel to a Side Oscillator, or even better, when you purchase a new tractor specify a Side Oscillating Fifth wheel with Lock Outs and a mounting height of 54 to 58 Inches.

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