

# TASK PROCEDURE – “Global”

TO/ENG/5.2

DIRECTORATE : TECHNICAL OPERATIONS  
 UNIT : ENGINEERING

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<b>TASK</b>		<b>COUPLE/UNCOUPLE TRUCKS/VEHICLES AND TRAILERS ©</b>	
PREPARED BY: P Lewis Signature	CHECKED BY: Signature	APPROVED BY: Signature	ISSUE DATE: REVISION DUE:

STEPS OF OPERATION What to do	KEY POINTS How you do it	REASONS Why you do it this way
<p><b>Confirm trailer/hitch load limits</b></p>	<p>Select an appropriate size trailer and towing vehicle.</p> <p>Check to ensure that the combined weight of the trailer and load does not exceed the gross trailer weight (GTW).</p> <p>Check to ensure that the conforming GTW does not exceed the vehicle hitch capacity.</p>	<p>Traffic regulation.</p> <p>Traffic regulation.</p>
<p><b>Prepare truck for use</b></p>	<p>Conduct a routine inspection of the truck in accordance with <a href="#">TO/ENG/1.1</a> – ‘<i>Conduct pre-start inspections (trucks)</i>’.</p> <p>Adjust the height of the hitch using the manually operated winder of the dolly wheel assembly until the trailer hitch is at the required level for the truck hitch. Where the truck hitch utilizes a tow ball, the trailer hitch shall be raised to a position above the level of the tow ball. Where the truck hitch is of the jaw clamp type, the trailer hitch shall be raised to a position level with the top of the lower jaw.</p>	

<b>Controlled documents are those having the word CONTROLLED stamped in red</b>	
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<p><b>Couple the truck and trailer</b></p>	<p>Using a ground person to provide directions when necessary, reverse the truck into a position centrally aligned with the trailer hitch.</p> <p>Lower and lock the trailer onto the truck hitch and apply the hitch lock-pins.</p> <p>Attach the break-away safety chains.</p> <p>Raise the dolly wheel and lock it in the transport position.</p>	<p>Ground person can ensure no-one passes between trailer and reversing truck and assist in coupling process.</p> <p>Prevent trailer from uncoupling.</p> <p>Traffic regulation.</p> <p>Prevent damage during transport.</p>
<p><b>Couple air lines and electrical cables</b></p>	<p>Inspect the air line fittings and clean if necessary.</p> <p>Route the air line from the trailer to the truck so that it does not chafe, drag or interfere with the trailer hitch.</p> <p>Connect the air lines in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.</p> <p>Inspect the electrical cable for damage and clean if necessary.</p> <p>Route the electrical cable from the trailer to the truck so that it does not chafe, drag or interfere with the trailer hitch.</p> <p>Connect the electrical cable in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.</p>	<p>Reduce risk of contaminants entering air system.</p> <p>Damage to lines may result in loss of air pressure.</p> <p>Dirty connections may cause failure of lights.</p> <p>Damage to lines may result in failure of trailer lights.</p>

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<p><b>Couple air lines and electrical cables (cont.)</b></p>	<p>Enter the cab of the truck using the procedures outlined in <a href="#">TO/ENG/2.1</a> – ‘<i>Getting in &amp; out of vehicles (trucks)</i>’ and turn on the hazard warning lights and park lights.</p> <p>Ask a ground person to assist in checking the operation of the brake lights and repair if necessary.</p>	<p>Traffic regulations require all lights to be operational.</p>
<p><b>Test trailer brakes</b></p>	<p>Disengage the park brake, and test the trailer brakes.</p> <p>To test the brakes, engage the trailer emergency brakes lever and release the truck/vehicle parking brake. Engage forward gear and slowly accelerate to apply pressure. If no resistance is felt report the faulty brake condition to supervision.</p>	<p>To ensure brakes function correctly.</p>
<p><b>Uncouple trailer</b></p>	<p>Position the trailer in a safe designated area. Engage the park brake and exit the cab.</p> <p>Chock wheels of the trailer.</p> <p>Disconnect air lines and electrical cables and secure on the trailer.</p> <p>Unlock and lower the trailer dolly wheel into position.</p> <p>Remove the locking pin from the trailer hitch locking mechanism and disengage the lock.</p>	<p>Prevent vehicle movement.</p> <p>To limit ‘sink’ of leg into the ground which may affect ability to raise trailer for later coupling.</p>

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<p><b>Uncouple trailer (cont.)</b></p>	<p>Place a support block on the ground under the dolly wheel in soft ground conditions.</p> <p>Raise the trailer hitch above the truck hitch using the manual winder.</p> <p>Enter the truck cab using the procedures outlined in <a href="#"><u>TO/ENG/2.1</u></a> – ‘<i>Getting in &amp; out of vehicles (trucks)</i>’.</p> <p>Release the park brake and drive forward until the trailer hitch separates from the truck.</p>	<p>To limit ‘sink’ of the leg into the ground, which may affect the ability to raise the trailer for later coupling.</p> <p>Using ‘low’ ratio minimizes effort required to raise or lower trailer.</p> <p>Approved safe procedure.</p>