

H TECHNICAL BULLETIN

VANTRAAX® SLIDER SUSPENSION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT: Factory-torqued Curbside
Pivot Connection

LIT NO: L926

DATE: May 2006

In keeping with our philosophy of continuous improvement, Hendrickson Trailer Suspension Systems announces a design improvement to all VANTRAAX® slider suspension systems. Beginning in mid June, the curbside pivot connection on all slider axles will be aligned in the center of its adjustment range and tightened to the proper torque before leaving Hendrickson's facility. In other words, the curbside pivot connection on all slider axles will not require any attention by the trailer OE. Alignment, to be completed by the trailer OE, will be performed using the roadside pivot connection only.

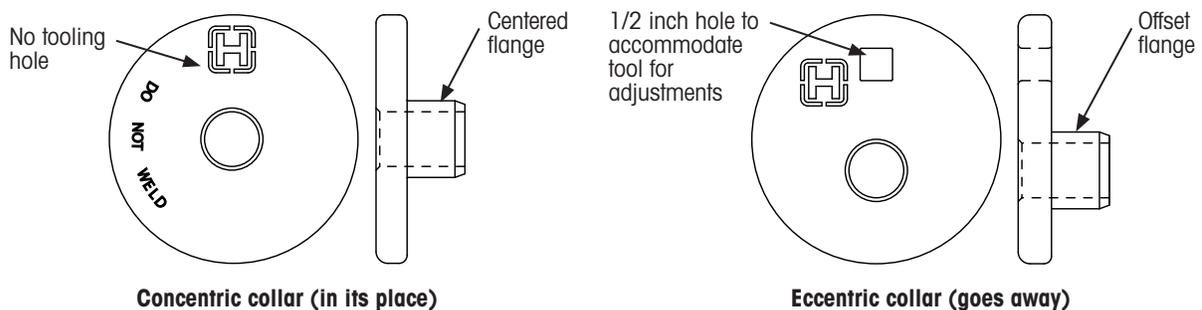
HOW DOES THIS BENEFIT YOU?

In the past, both curbside and roadside pivot connections were shipped loose on our VANTRAAX sliders. This required both ends of each axle to be aligned and tightened to the proper torque. Our new, factory-torqued curbside improvement offers several enhancements over the previous design:

- Time savings — we complete half of the alignment / pivot connection assembly job for you
- Resource savings — since there is no need to touch the curbside pivot connection, alignment essentially becomes a one-person job, thus freeing up personnel for other tasks
- Quality assurance — because we complete the curbside pivot connection, there is no need to inspect for "raised" or "wedged" curbside alignment collars, the connection will be fastened properly
- Industry standardization — like most others in the industry, VANTRAAX slider suspension systems will now be aligned from just one side

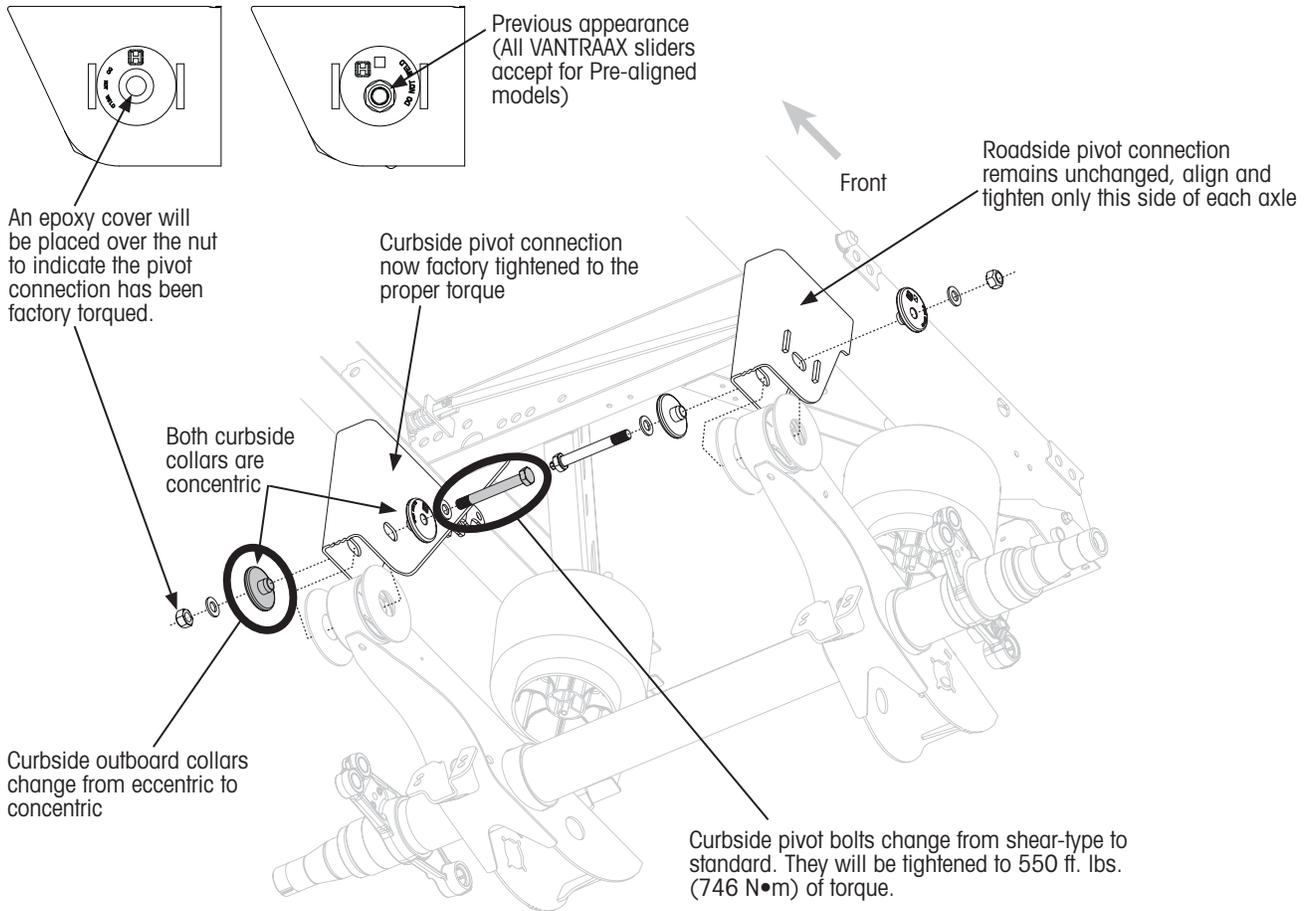
ALL THE DETAILS

This design improvement involves a change to the curbside outboard alignment collar. Instead of the eccentric type you are used to seeing, it will change to a concentric type as shown below. The figure on the next page illustrates the other minor component changes you can expect to see with this design improvement.



Both inboard and outboard collars will now be concentric on the curbside of the suspension. This eliminates any adjustment at the curbside pivot connection. The pivot bolt will also change from a shear-type bolt to a standard bolt on the curbside pivot connection of each axle. Before leaving our facility, the curbside pivot

Outboard side of curbside frame bracket:



connection will be aligned in the center of the frame bracket slot and tightened to a torque of 550 ft. lbs. (746 N•m). After clamping the pivot connection, an epoxy cover will be placed over the curbside nut to indicate that the connection has been factory torqued. If your slider is factory pre-aligned, the nut on the roadside pivot connection will also have an epoxy cover, as it always has. If more range is needed to properly align the suspension than what is provided by the roadside pivot connection, contact the Hendrickson technical service department at 866-RIDEAIR (743-3247).

REPLACEMENT PARTS

Replacement kits will remain unchanged. Continue to order and install replacement components as you have in the past. When ordering a kit with alignment collars, you will continue to receive a pair of eccentric collars and a pair of concentric collars — nothing changes. The concentric collars will locate on the inboard side of each frame bracket, and the eccentric collars will locate on the outboard side as in the past. If you choose to purchase a kit without alignment collars, the existing collars should be replaced in their factory-installed locations. In all cases, ensure that the nut and bolt are properly tightened to the specified torque.

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