



H TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STEERTEK NXT / STEERTEK Axle

SUBJECT: Recommended Towing Methods

LIT NO: SEU-0102

DATE: September 2011

REVISION: C

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ON-HIGHWAY AND ON-ROADWAY RECOMMENDED TOWING METHODS

Hendrickson recommends that a vehicle equipped with a STEERTEK NXT / STEERTEK axle be towed by the following methods (listed in order of preference) for ON-HIGHWAY or ON-ROADWAY applications.

- **METHOD 1** — Wheel lift, the ideal towing procedure
- **METHOD 2** — Towing the vehicle from the rear
- **METHOD 3** — Conventional axle fork
- **METHOD 4** — Spring eye and hanger lift (may require the removal of fairings)

Please read, understand and comply with any additional towing instructions and safety precautions that may be provided by the vehicle manufacturer.

Hendrickson will not be responsible for any damage to the axle, suspension or other vehicle components resulting from any towing method or fixture not authorized by Hendrickson.

Contact Hendrickson Tech Services with any questions regarding proper towing procedures for vehicles equipped with a STEERTEK NXT / STEERTEK axle at 1-866-755-5968 or send e-mail to: techservices@hendrickson-intl.com.

METHOD 1 — WHEEL LIFT

This method provides the greatest ease for towing the vehicle. Lifting at the tires helps reduce the risk of possible damage to the axle, suspension, and engine components during towing operations, see Figure 1.

FIGURE 1 – Wheel Lift Method





METHOD 2 — TOWING VEHICLE FROM THE REAR

This method is preferred when the proper equipment is not available to perform the wheel lift method and is necessary for wreckers not equipped with an under lift system.

METHOD 3 — AXLE FORK LIFT

This is an alternative method for towing the vehicle, but requires standard tow forks and designated lift points depending on which front axle is equipped on the vehicle, STEERTEK NXT or STEERTEK.

NOTE

When lifting a vehicle with an under lift boom, care must be taken not to damage the engine's oil pan. Vehicles equipped with a front fairing may require removal of the front fairing prior to towing to prevent component damage.

- Place a spacer on the boom, to provide adequate clearance between the oil pan and the boom if necessary. Lift the vehicle in order to place spacer under tires. This will provide sufficient room under the axle to locate forks in the proper position.
- It is recommended to maintain the air in the air springs (if equipped) to help prevent damage to the air spring bump stop while towing the vehicle. An alternative air source may be necessary if the engine or compressor will not function. If the air spring is punctured, tow the steer axle suspension with the air springs deflated.
- Release the tractor brakes.
- Install safety straps prior to towing the vehicle, it is preferred to use nylon safety straps. Chains have a tendency to bind and may cause damage to the axle.

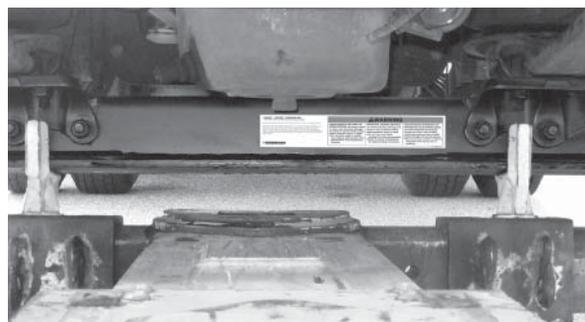
STEERTEK NXT equipped (vehicles built AFTER July 2011)

1. Use a Miller Short Frame Fork, Part No. 0200019, or comparable (3.25" Clearance), 4.5" Opening, 2" Shank, see Figure 2.
2. Install the fork in the boom properly.
3. The proper tow fork location is centered between the locknuts on the axle spring seats, see Figure 3.

FIGURES 2



FIGURE 3



STEERTEK equipped (vehicles built PRIOR TO July 2011)

1. Install the fork in the boom properly.
2. Position the proper tow forks directly under the axle, inside the axle clamp groups as shown in Figures 4 and 5.



FIGURE 4

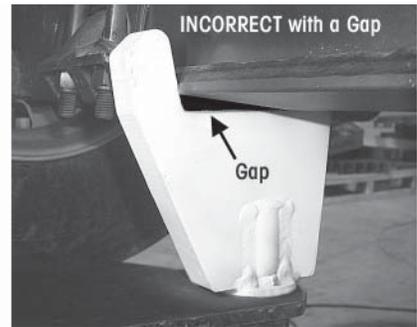
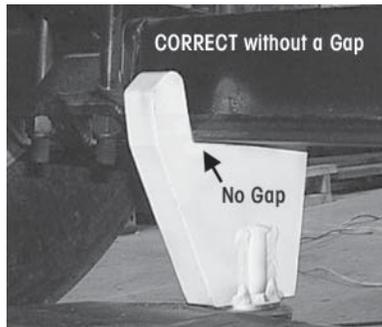


FIGURE 5



3. Prior to lifting the vehicle, ensure that the bottom axle plate is flat in the tow fork to minimize any gap between the bottom axle plate and the tow fork, see Figure 6. Lift vehicle and secure the vehicle to the boom.

FIGURE 6



METHOD 4 — SPRING EYE AND HANGER LIFT METHOD

This method is permitted for under lift equipped units, see Figure 7 for proper installation. Caution must be taken to prevent damage to the leaf spring.

- Inspect ends of spring cradles for burrs or sharp edges that could damage spring.
- Install safety straps prior to towing the vehicle, it is preferred to use nylon safety straps. Chains have a tendency to bind and may cause damage to the axle.

NOTE

When lifting a vehicle with the under lift boom, see Figures 7 and 8, care must be taken as not to damage the engine oil pan. It may be necessary to remove the front fairing. If necessary place a block of wood between the top of the boom and the bottom of the axle.

FIGURE 7

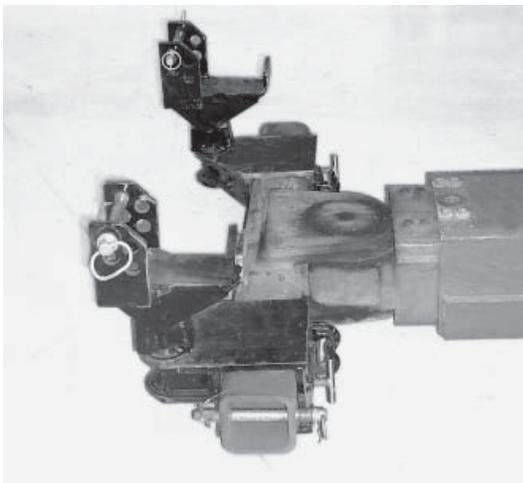
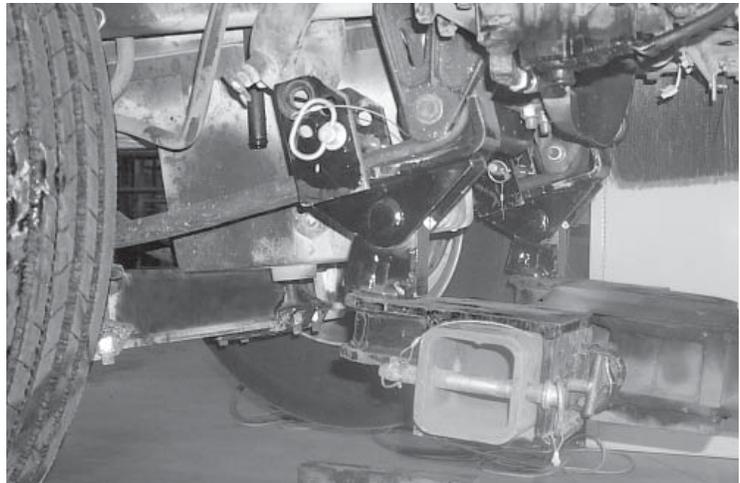


FIGURE 8





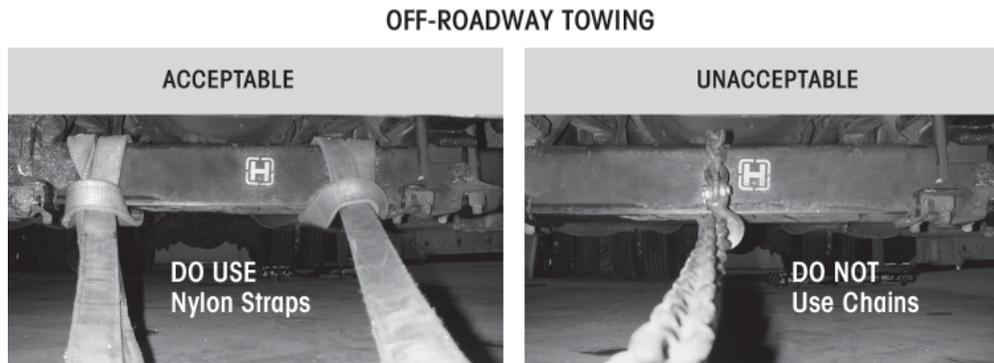
WARNING

OFF-ROADWAY TOWING

WHEN A VEHICLE IS DISABLED AND EQUIPPED WITH A STEERTEK NXT / STEERTEK AXLE, CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THERE IS NO DAMAGE TO THE SUSPENSION OR AXLE WHEN TOWING THE VEHICLE. THE USE OF A TOW STRAP IS NECESSARY TO TOW A DISABLED VEHICLE TO A REPAIR FACILITY PARKING LOT INTO THE SHOP BAY. THE TOW STRAPS SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO THE TOW HOOKS PROVIDED BY THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER AT THE FRONT OF THE BUMPER. IF THE USE OF TOW HOOKS IS NOT AN OPTION, THEN A TOW STRAP MAY BE WRAPPED AROUND THE FRONT AXLE, (SEE FIGURE 9) IN A MANNER THAT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR TOWING THE VEHICLE FROM A REPAIR FACILITY PARKING LOT INTO THE SHOP BAY. DO NOT USE A TOW CHAIN AROUND THE FRONT AXLE OR WITH A SINGLE POINT LOCATION TO TOW THE VEHICLE. DOING SO WILL DAMAGE THE AXLE AND VOID WARRANTY, SEE FIGURE 9.

- NYLON STRAPS OR CHAINS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR ON-HIGHWAY OR ON-ROADWAY TOWING.

FIGURE 9



Hendrickson Tech Services contact information:

1.866.755.5968 (toll-free U.S. and Canada)	630.910.2800 (outside U.S. and Canada)	e-mail techservices@hendrickson-intl.com
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Visit www.hendrickson-intl.com for Hendrickson product information.

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