

Bearing Service:

Axles mainly found currently are either suspended by leaf springs in the case of standard beam axles, or the rubber suspended axle system. The latter operates on a torsion bar concept using rubber elements encased in a square tube. Rubber suspended axles have become increasingly popular due to the low loading height of the trailer and the ease with which they are mounted onto trailers.

Maintenance of axles is mostly concerned with the maintenance of the roller bearings. You should perform a maintenance inspection every 6 months or 5,000km.

A suggested way of doing your inspection is as follows:

1. Jack up the trailer and remove the wheels.
2. Remove the grease cap.
3. Remove the split pin and castle nut (and washer if present).
4. Pull the hub assembly off the spindle.
5. Remove the seal, inner- and outer bearing from the hub.
6. Wash the bearing races and inside of the hub thoroughly with a grease solvent. Carefully inspect both the bearing races and the bearing shells inside the hub for signs of wear and overheating by noticing a blue colour on rollers and bearing surfaces. If bearings should be replaced, see "**replacement of bearings**" document.
7. Smear both the bearing shells in the hub with a generous layer of wheel-bearing grease. Also rub a generous portion of grease carefully into each bearing race.
8. Replace the bearing races into the bearing shells in the hub.
9. Fit a new seal.
10. Slide the hub assembly back over the spindle.
11. Fit the washer (if present) and screw the castle nut down tight, then loosen slightly until the hub can be easily rotated by hand.
12. Turn the castle nut to the closest position for the split pin to be fitted. There should be no more than 0.1mm end float ("rocking") in the hub and the hub must be easily turned by hand.
13. Fit the split pin and bend the legs open around the outside of the castle nut.
14. Replace grease cap into the hub by tapping it lightly with a hammer until properly seated.
15. Replace the wheels and ensure that the wheel nuts or bolts are properly tightened. Check them again after you have covered about 20km.