

TECH TALK – COMMON TRANSMISSION ISSUES



HARD OR DIFFICULT SHIFTING

Hard shifting may be caused by incorrect clutch adjustment, worn linkage, low air pressure, improper lubricant, damaged synchronizing components, or internal wear. The complete system should be inspected before assuming the transmission needs rebuilding.

GRINDING DURING SHIFTS

Grinding can happen when the clutch does not release completely, the engine and road speed are not matched correctly, or internal components are worn. Continuing to force the transmission into gear can cause additional damage.

TRANSMISSION JUMPS OUT OF GEAR

A transmission that jumps out of gear may have worn gears, damaged sliding clutches, weak detent components, excessive shaft movement, or linkage problems. Stop operating the truck and have the transmission inspected.

RANGE OR SPLITTER PROBLEMS

Slow, delayed, or incomplete range and splitter shifts may be related to air leaks, damaged lines, a restricted filter, low air pressure, faulty valves, or worn internal components. Inspect the air system before removing the transmission.

UNUSUAL NOISE

Whining, growling, rattling, or knocking may indicate bearing wear, gear damage, low lubricant, driveline problems, or loose components. Note when the noise occurs and whether it changes with speed, load, or gear selection.

EXCESSIVE OPERATING TEMPERATURE

High temperature may result from low or incorrect lubricant, heavy loading, unsuitable gearing, excessive road speed, poor cooling, internal wear, or driveline problems. Address overheating quickly to prevent further damage.

TRANSMISSION LEAKS

Leaks commonly develop near seals, gaskets, PTO covers, cooler lines, and drain or fill plugs. A small leak can eventually lower the lubricant level enough to damage bearings and gears.

DRIVELINE VIBRATION

Vibration may come from worn U-joints, incorrect driveline angles, damaged driveshafts, loose mounts, suspension changes, or axle alignment problems. Driveline vibration can place additional stress on the transmission.

CLUTCH-RELATED PROBLEMS

A worn or incorrectly adjusted clutch can cause grinding, difficult shifting, poor release, and excessive transmission stress. Inspect the clutch, release bearing, linkage, pilot bearing, and clutch brake as part of the diagnosis.

GET THE PROBLEM CHECKED EARLY

Small changes in noise, shifting, vibration, leaking, or operating temperature can be early signs of a larger problem. An inspection performed early may help prevent additional damage and unexpected downtime.