

FW331 & FW351 – Foot pin connection routine inspection

The inspection of the foot pin connection of SAF-HOLLAND FW351 and FW331 should form part of the routine inspection of the fifth wheel.

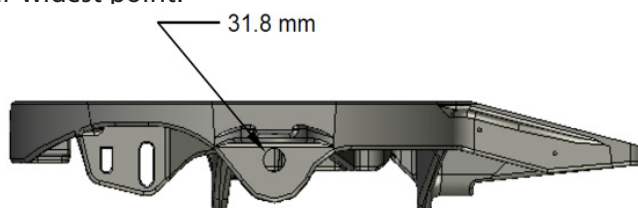
SAF-HOLLAND FW351 and FW331 fifth wheel top plates have loose fitting pivot bore holes, to facilitate easy removal of the pin. When new, there can be a difference of 0.8 mm between the diameter of the pin and the pivot bore hole.

Excessive free-play in the foot pin connection can occur due to wear of the components that comprise the connection. If not identified and remedied, excessive free-play could lead to further wear and degradation in product performance.

SAF-HOLLAND recommends that any free-play exceeding 3 mm (combination of vertical and/or horizontal free-play) within the foot pin connection should be investigated further, by disassembly and measurement of the individual components, listed below. Each component has a maximum wear limit of 3 mm, and must be replaced if that limit is exceeded.

- foot pin
- pivot bush
- mounting feet
- fifth wheel foot pin bore hole (maximum diameter of 31.8 mm)

One method for measuring the pivot bore hole is to remove the foot pin and measure both the internal and external holes at their widest point.



An alternate method is to remove the fifth wheel, insert a new (i.e. unused) foot pin into the pivot bore hole, and measure the vertical and horizontal movement of the pin in the pivot bore hole. The maximum movement if using this method is 3 mm.

Foot pins, pivot bushes, and mounting feet can remain in service if worn by less than 3 mm from their condition when new.

Customers may, at their discretion, replace worn components to lessen or eliminate any free-play present, but replacement parts that are within wear limits are not covered under warranty, irrespective of the service life of the fifth wheel.

For example, foot pins and pivot bushes are not covered under warranty if the wear is less than 3 mm. Fifth wheel top plates are not covered under warranty unless the pivot bore hole exceeds 31.8 mm. In instances of the fifth wheel casting, warranty must be claimed within the three-year warranty period of the product. All mounting hardware, (eg. foot pin, bushes and mounting feet) are covered by a 12-month warranty.

For technical information, please contact SAF-HOLLAND Technical Service on (03) 9971 7900, or via e-mail on service@safholland.com.au