Drawbar coupling

Coupling

- 1 Check that the trailer is secured with the parking brake and wheel chocks to prevent it rolling away and that the coupling is open.
- 2 Set the drawbar's eye and jaw at the same height. Release the brake on the trailer front axle



- 3 Step out of the space between the vehicles
- 4 Couple by reversing the towing vehicle, then press it on
- **5** Apply the parking brake of the towing vehicle



- 6 Check that the coupling is closed and secured
- 7 Connect up the connecting lines: yellow first never red alone
- 8 Rigid drawbar trailer: Bring the landing legs into the driving position
- 9 Release the trailer's parking brake and remove the wheel chocks
- 10 Departure check

Uncoupling



- 1 Apply the parking brake of the tractor unit
- 2 Secure the trailer against rolling away: Parking brake and wheel chocks
- 3 Rigid drawbar trailer: Lower the landing legs



- 4 Disconnect the connecting lines: first red, then yellow never red alone
- 5 Open the coupling



- 6 Step out of the space between the vehicles
- 7 Move the towing vehicle forward

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Coupling – but safely!

Brief instructions for coupling and uncoupling trailers

Coupling without accidents

Every year, numerous serious accidents occur when coupling trucks. These are often caused by misjudging the danger or by reckless behaviour. When coupling trucks, there is a danger to life in the area between the tractor unit and trailer as well as in the immediate vicinity. That is why allowing a trailer to be overrun for coupling is prohibited under any circumstances. Thorough instruction is essential for those carrying



out the coupling. Being under time pressure should not be seen as a reason to disregard your own safety or that of others. Only those who concentrate on the matter in hand and follow the correct procedure can couple a trailer safely. So pay attention to:

- Activating the parking brakes in the cab and on the trailer!
- Follow the correct sequence when connecting or loosening the pneumatic brake lines: NEVER RED ON ITS OWN!
- Place the wheel chocks under the wheels they are your life insurance!

A different way to couple up

Coupling up in a different way is only permitted for semi-trailers. Due to their design, when they are coupled up the distance from the towing vehicle is so small that it is not possible to connect up the connecting lines, so coupling up a different way to the conventional method is needed.

You can find detailed information in DGUV Information 214-080 "Coupling - safely!"

Fifth wheel coupling

Coupling up

- 1 Check that the semi-trailer is secured with the parking brake and wheel chocks to prevent it rolling away and check that the fifth wheel coupling is open.
- 2 Adjust the semi-trailer towing tractor to the intended height



- 3 Run in the tractor unit for coupling, then push it on
- 4 Apply the parking brake on the tractor unit



- 5 Check that the fifth wheel coupling is closed and secured
- 6 Connect up the connecting lines: yellow first never red alone
- 7 Move the landing legs into the driving position
- 8 Release the parking brake of the semi-trailer and remove the wheel chocks
- 9 Departure check

Uncoupling



- 1 Apply the parking brake on the towing vehicle
- Check the ground conditions under the contact areas of the landing legs and the load-bearing capacity of the legs themselves
- 3 Secure the semi-trailer against rolling away: Parking brake and wheel chocks
- 4 Crank down the landing legs



- 5 Disconnect the connecting lines: first red, then yellow never red alone
- 6 Open the fifth wheel coupling



7 Move the towing vehicle forward

Different ways to couple up



Check that the semi-trailer is secured with the parking brake and wheel chocks to prevent it rolling away and check that the fifth wheel coupling is open.



- 2 Drive the semi-trailer towing tractor under the trailer and, using the air suspension, raise it until there is contact between the coupling plate and the slide plate. **Important:** The semi-trailer must not be lifted during this procedure.
- 3 Apply the parking brake of the semi-trailer towing tractor
- 4 Connect up the connecting lines: yellow first never red alone



- 5 Run in the towing vehicle for coupling, then move it closer
- 6 Check that the fifth wheel coupling is closed and secured

Finally: see point 7/8/9 "Coupling up"