



J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

# IMPORTANT SAFETY RETROFIT NOTICE

## INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 66

TO: THE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR AND/OR SAFETY DIRECTOR

FROM: RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
J. H. FLETCHER & CO.

DATE: APRIL 1997

SUBJ: MAINTAINING MANTRIP GEAR BOXES

In March 1995, J. H. Fletcher & Co. issued Information Bulletin No. 55, notifying customers that if the brakes were not maintained according to original equipment specifications, a risk of failure is created. Improper maintenance of these components could result in a loss of brakes on the mantrip if one or both drive lines fail.

As a follow-up to Information Bulletin No. 55, J. H. Fletcher & Co. is now offering an auxiliary braking system on specific units not already equipped with this additional brake. Basically, the auxiliary system will require you to retrofit your machine with a set of brakes on the axle. The mantrip will then feature a separate brake to stop the unit in the event of difficulties in maintaining the standard brake system.

This modification to the existing system will require a major chassis modification to your machine. The auxiliary braking system will require a new axle in addition to the new brake calipers on each axle.

This retrofit is only for those machines that have been identified in this bulletin; other mantrips at your mine may already have this auxiliary brake option. This retrofit is not a mandatory retrofit, but is an offer from J. H. Fletcher & Co. if you are having difficulty maintaining the equipment as originally designed. Each owner should carefully consider performing this retrofit. Whether you purchase this auxiliary braking system, you should always maintain the regular brake system by inspecting the gear box and drive lines using the following method:

1. Make sure each drive line is operating properly and effectively. Inspect your drive line to make sure it is tight and there is no play in the universal joints or slip joints. This can be done by prying against the drive shaft with a pry bar at various points along the drive shaft and visually checking for excessive play.

2. Make sure each drive line coupling bolt is properly torqued to 45-55 ft. lb., and that you are using grade eight bolts.
3. Check for proper operation of all brakes, and for worn parts. Brake calipers should be operating properly. Check proper operation by activating brake lever to assure the lever is firm and does not bleed off. Second, always make sure your brake pads are at least 3/16" thick.
4. Check for excessive wear in the axle gear box couplings and right angle drive couplings. Check the gear box and right angle drive couplings by prying against coupling with a pry bar and visually inspecting for excessive play. Remember, the truck assembly gear box is a pressed on fit. If the fit is loose at the truck axle, gear box or key, you must replace the entire drive unit.
5. Use only OEM parts to assure the drive line you purchase meets quality standards.

If you decide that this is a retrofit your machine needs, we are requesting that you contact the Service Department at 304/525-7811 and provide the serial number so that we can assure you get the correct material.

If you no longer own this equipment, we request that you provide the name and address of the purchaser (see enclosure), so that we may assure that the current owner receives this notice.

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 66  
MAINTAINING MANTRIP GEAR BOXES

**OWNERSHIP RESPONSE**

MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS UNIT WAS PURCHASED BY:

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON TO CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS UNIT WAS PURCHASED BY:

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON TO CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS UNIT WAS PURCHASED BY:

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON TO CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_