

8 Reasons for Using an Autogreaser

Whether you know it as an Automatic Lubrication System (ALS), an autogreaser or a centralized grease lubrication system, an ALS automatically lubricates multiple points on a truck from a centralized pump/control unit which is mounted in an easily accessible location. A system dispenses small measured amounts of lubricant at frequent intervals, while your equipment is operating, maintaining the correct amount of grease in the bearing at all

times and a consistent lubricant seal to prevent dirt and contaminants from migrating into bearings. FLO Components Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario has been supplying Automatic Lubrication Systems using components from Lincoln Industrial for over 30 years.

FLO's Marketing Specialist, Gabriel Lopez says; "In talking with people who don't currently use Automatic Lubrication Systems, we often hear statements like 'Even if I use an Autogreaser, I still

have to do a walk-around to inspect the system'. This is absolutely correct. An Automatic Lubrication System (ALS) will not replace your regular truck maintenance inspection. You still have to check for loose or damaged lines and make sure that everything is operating smoothly. What an ALS does is take the grease gun out of your hand and replace it with a wrench. Then, you can use the grease lines as a guide and have the opportunity to focus on making any necessary

adjustments or repairs as you conduct your regular inspection."

So you might be asking yourself; "What's the point of using an ALS?"

According to FLO Components, there are 8 reasons why you would use an Automatic Lubrication System:

1) Safety

An ALS helps to reduce or eliminate climbing over and under machinery or into difficult-to-reach areas. Whether you're an owner/operator of a single piece of equipment, or the fleet manager for a large operator, personnel safety in today's workplace is a key consideration.

2) Efficient Lubrication

An ALS applies grease while the truck is running so you don't have to stop what you're doing or set aside time to lubricate it - in other words, less downtime. Furthermore, because the bearing is turning when it receives the grease, you get much better grease coverage on the bearing.

3) Better Lubrication

Applying grease is often most effective when it is dispensed in small, measured amounts over short, frequent time intervals. Unfortunately, tight deadlines and manpower constraints or in some cases the location of a truck often make this method of lubrication impossible. Equipment gets greased when it's available and when we have time and

somebody available to do it. Clearly, this approach is not optimal for the point requiring lubrication. An ALS makes this problem go away.

4) Better Housekeeping

How much grease is too much? According to Lopez; "If you're old-school, you keep pumping it in until you see it oozing out of the bearing. This is what we at FLO like to call 'over lubrication'." As previously stated, frequent and small, measured amounts will give your bearings the best protection. In addition to no over/under lubrication, this also means that you get less spillage and leakage. The end results are less grease wastage and less mess on your truck, parking lot, loading docks, etc. Appearance aside, safety (danger of slipping) and environmental issues are even more important.

5) Less Downtime, Reduced Maintenance Costs, & Reduced Bearing Replacement

Time and manpower constraints often make it nearly impossible to keep up with the greasing requirements of equipment, especially in the harsh Canadian climate. The "preventative maintenance" provided by an ALS is absolutely key to reducing maintenance costs and minimizing downtime by extending the life of the many pivots, bushings and components on the equipment. There are also fewer replacement parts

to stock.

6) Increased Overall Productivity

Resulting from an increase in truck availability and reduction in downtime due to breakdowns or general maintenance.

7) Longer Truck Life and Higher Resale Value

Due to the fact that bearing areas are consistently protected and your truck in general is better maintained.

8) Helps the Environment

For the environment, less premature wear of bearings and other components means less landfill. Also, since you're not over greasing (see Better Housekeeping above), you're depleting fewer resources from the environment and you're not contaminating the environment with dripping grease.

FLO will be exhibiting its Automatic Lubrication Systems at the 2010 Fergus Truck show in booth L26. Lopez says; "We will be showcasing one of our client's trucks in our booth, so people will get to see an actual installed system in addition to several different working demos. We will also be featuring one of our industry exclusive, fully equipped Mobile Workshops."

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