

# Trailer Operator's Manual and Maintenance

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED Please read immediately!**

CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you for your purchase. Your trailer is a truly exceptional piece of equipment and is the finest of its type, incorporating many features as standard equipment.

Best trailers LTD is designed and built to give many years of safe and satisfactory service. In addition to our design efforts, we stand ready to assist you with any problems or questions you may have regarding the normal operation and maintenance of your new trailer.

## **OPERATING INFORMATION**

### **1. CAPACITY**

Imprinted on your trailer certification plate (VIN sticker located on the front left side of your trailer) is the GVWR capacity. The GVWR represents the combined weight of the trailer and the load which it was designed to carry. The actual carrying capacity is the GVWR less the weight of the trailer. Carrying capacity includes the boat, motor, fuel and gear. If rated capacity is exceeded, the warranty is void.

### **2. TRAILER COUPLINGS AND TOW BALLS**

Trailer couplings are permanently marked with the following information:

- A. The coupler manufacturer's name or initials.

B. Model or Part Number.

C. Ball diameter, for which rating (GVWR) shall not exceed the gross trailer weight.

Never use a different size ball than indicated on the coupler.

### **3. SAFETY CHAINS AND CABLES**

(Towing) Your trailer is equipped with two towing safety chains or cables. When attaching your trailer to the tow vehicle, connect each of the safety chains or cables to a separate point on your hitch per the hitch manufacturer's instructions.

(Bow) The bow safety chain (or cable) adjacent to the winch is an added safety feature and must be used by the operator when towing. After sliding the "S" hook through the bow eye of the boat, adjust the chain as tight as possible by securing it at the key hole slot on the winch support bracket. (If trailer has cable, it is non-adjustable)

### **4. WINCH**

We are equipped with a hand winch designed for long life and trouble free launching and loading. Periodically, the gears of your winch should be lubricated with an all-purpose grease. Check the winch cable or strap for cuts or frayed fibers at each use. Replace immediately if any sign of wear is evident. Be sure to spool the cable or rope across the drum. To extend cable or rope life, avoid a criss-cross overlap pattern while retrieving

### **5. SECURING THE CARGO FOR TRAILERING**

Tie down the boat securely at the bow and stern with approved tie downs (belly type straps, ratcheting tie downs, or adequate strength rope). In addition to the winch cable or strap, use the bow safety chain or cable. Again, do not depend on

the winch line alone to secure the boat to the trailer. Be certain that the bow is resting snugly against the bow roller. Any loose cargo should be secured within the boat or to the deck of a flat top trailer

## **6. ALL BOLTS, NUTS, AND FASTENERS**

Upon initial trailer inspection, and on a continuing regular basis. Check for loose hardware.

## **7. BEARINGS AND HUBS NOTE**

Check wheel bearings periodically by the following procedure: CAUTION - With the trailer connected to the tow vehicle on level ground, set the tow vehicle parking brake and chock the wheels.

A. Chock the trailer wheel opposite the hub to be removed. Place chocks both in front and behind the tire.

B. Position the service jack on the frame as near the wheel to be removed as possible.

C. Rotate the elevated wheel and listen for any noise. If your trailer is equipped with brakes, be certain that the (drum-style) brake shoes are not dragging. Feel the wheel for any roughness in its rotation.

D. A quiet and smooth rotation indicates that the bearings are in good shape. If a noise, grinding sound or roughness in rotation are evident, please contact us or workshop for service.

E. At this time the wheel bearing adjustment should be checked. At the factory, Best Trailers LTD sets the proper torque to maximize bearing life but on occasion it may be necessary to make an adjustment due to normal wear. To check if bearing adjustment is needed, grip the edge of the wheel to see if it rocks, or can

move laterally. If the wheel moves at all, an adjustment is necessary. First, remove the bearing protector or dust cap

F. If needed, grease hubs carefully after launch or before storage. Do not add grease when hub is cold, too much grease could damage hub seal. Smaller trailers may be built with a steel dust cap or plastic bearing buddy and can only be properly lubricated by repacking by hand at the end of each season. Bearing protectors can also be added as an option. Larger trailers are equipped with a patented lubrication system which incorporates an internally cored spindle and grease fitting. This allows the hubs to be easily greased without disassembly, and assures lubrication to the inner bearing. Using a high temperature NLGI #2 wheel bearing grease and a hand-operated grease gun, apply grease after each immersion of a warm hub into ambient water. This will displace any water introduced during the rapid cooling process. Lubricate each wheel periodically or before a long trip with a few pumps. NOTICE: It is required that once a year each hub be removed and the following items visually inspected and replaced if necessary: bearings, bearing races, seals and brake components. Repack with new grease and reassemble using a new cotter pin. All work should be performed by a qualified mechanic. To remove your bearing protector or dust cap, place a piece of wood against the side of it. Carefully strike the wood with a hammer. Then place the wood on the opposite side, and restrike. Continue this procedure until you have "walked" the protector out of the hub. To reinstall your bearing protector or dust cap, line it up with your hub, place a block of wood over the front of the protector and carefully tap the wood with a hammer. NOTE: All bearing protector caps are designed to fit tightly into the hub. Take extra care in aligning the protector cap with the hub

## **8. TIRES**

To determine the proper tire and rim size and capacity specified for your model, refer to your Vehicle Identification Number certification plate located on the front left side of your trailer. Recommended tire air pressure can be found on the certification plate and on the tire sidewall. Always check tire pressures when cold. Always fill to the maximum rated cold pressure. NEVER over inflate tires. Should

the certification plate be damaged or otherwise illegible, the dealer or manufacturer can determine the proper tire, rim size, and pressure. When jacking up the trailer to change tires, follow the same procedure as outlined above when checking hub bearings. When replacing tires, use only tires with the ST (Special Trailer) designation

## **9. BRAKES AND ACTUATOR**

Contact local department of motor vehicle authority to determine brake requirements for the jurisdiction in which the trailer is to be registered. For safety, Best Trailers LTD recommends brakes on ALL axles where available. The brake system requires DOT 4 hydraulic brake fluid. Check the actuator reservoir regularly. Braking components should be thoroughly rinsed and dried before storage for optimal service life. CAUTION: Wet brakes operate less efficiently. Use care in operating the trailer immediately after immersion while launching or loading.

## **10. FINISH**

After exposure to saltwater, wash the trailer thoroughly with freshwater at the first convenient opportunity. After washing, air dry surface with a short ride. Galvanized trailers may occasionally show a rust spot or surface discoloration. If this occurs, touch up with cold galvanizing spray paint. This product can be obtained through Best Trailers LTD or most paint, hardware, or marine stores. Always thoroughly dry all components, especially brakes, before storage.

**Best Trailers LTD**

**720 Great South Road, Penrose, Auckland**

**PH: 0800-608-609**

**Email: [admin@besttrailers.co.nz](mailto:admin@besttrailers.co.nz)**

**Web: [www.besttrailers.co.nz](http://www.besttrailers.co.nz)**