



Prepare for the Hot Weather



IMPORTANT: Limit the amount of time the doors are open when loading and unloading. Once closed, ensure the doors are completely latched. Leaving doors open or unsealed for too long lets the cold air out and hot air in, significantly impacting the internal temperature of the trailer.



Driver Pre-Trip Inspection

Always perform a pre-trip inspection of the TRU and trailer to ensure there are no worn or damaged parts before departing. Report any alarms and do not load the trailer until it has been repaired.



Check Oil, Water, and Fuel Levels Daily

Hot temperatures can strain the engine of the refrigeration unit. Checking the oil level ensures sufficient lubrication, and helps to manage friction and heat buildup. An insufficient amount of oil can lead to engine damage or failure, especially in hot conditions.



Remove Debris from Return Air Bulkhead

Ensure there is no debris in the return air bulkhead. Debris can prevent proper airflow, causing the trailer to cool down slower, which can seriously impact temperature control during warm months.



Pre-Cool Trailer Before Loading

Pre-cool your trailer to within 10 degrees below the desired set point of the product being loaded. Refrigerated units are designed to maintain temperature, not to lower the product temperature over time. Verify that the product is pre-cooled to the desired temperature before loading.



Turn Off Transport Refrigeration Unit (TRU) While Doors Are Open

Leaving the TRU running while the doors are open will suck in hot outdoor air, causing you to lose cool temperature faster and overwork the TRU, leading to failures and more wear.



Inspect Your Tires

Always check your tires, especially in hot temperatures, as heat can increase tire pressure. Overinflated tires are more prone to blowouts, reduced traction, and uneven wear. Regular inspections during hot weather allows for adjustments to maintain optimal tire pressure.



Inspect Air Lines for Chafing, Leaks, and Rubbing

Hot temperatures can exacerbate wear and tear on air lines, making them more susceptible to cracking or leaks. Inspecting the lines helps identify potential weak points or damage that could lead to air leaks, affecting the trailer's braking system and refrigeration unit. Regular inspection helps detect signs of chafing or rubbing early, allowing for preventive maintenance.



Driver Post-Trip Inspection

Always inspect the trailer for safety measures after your trip. Please note that PLM offers full-service maintenance with 24/7 emergency service, mobile service that comes to you, a team of fleet experts, a Managed Maintenance Program with low monthly fees, and more.



Wash Trailers Inside and Out

Wash trailers inside and out, particularly paying attention to the dirt and soot that accumulates on the fins and tubes of condensers and radiators.

Contact Us: (877) RENT - PLM, ext. 4 | rental@plmfleet.com

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