

# Transpecs' New Aluminium Fifth Wheel

## At the recent Transport and Heavy Equipment Expo in

Hamilton, Transpecs introduced a new aluminium fifth wheel, the Holland FWAL Series. The new coupling device was developed by U.S. trucking industry leader SAF-Holland. SAF-Holland's fifth wheels are known throughout New Zealand and the world for their reliability and performance.

The FWAL Series was actually developed by SAF-Holland in cooperation with ALCOA, the world's leader in aluminium technology. The new aluminium fifth wheel is the lightest weight standard-duty fifth wheel in its class and is forged from the same alloy as ALCOA's aluminium truck wheels. The FWAL weighs 125 lbs. less than the competitors' comparable fifth wheel / slider combination. Less weight means that the customers can carry a higher payload and improve their profit per trip performance by using the FWAL Series.

The FWAL Series has a maximum vertical load capacity of 55,000 lbs. and a maximum drawbar pull capacity of 150,000 lbs. The cost of the FWAL Series is more expensive than the traditional steel counterpart, but many customers are willing to pay the premium for the weight savings and the other benefits of the product.

The FWAL Series features Holland's NoLube technology as standard. NoLube technology eliminates the need for lubrication on the top plate and the locking mechanism. Replaceable NoLube plate inserts are mechanically bonded to a unique, perforated steel plate that provides low friction performance, and extends the life of the lube plate compound, eliminating the need for lubrication. The NoLube technology reduces customer maintenance time and costs, while keeping the environment cleaner.

The new aluminium fifth wheel's other features include a top plate front lock insert that is made of a wear-resistant alloy of machined steel. Also, the FWAL Series comes with a drop handle configuration as standard. This feature reduces handle damage and maintenance repairs due to improper coupling.

SAF-Holland is so confident of the FWAL Series fifth wheel that they guarantee the durability as well as the material and workmanship. The component is guaranteed for 5 years or 500,000 miles.

Transpecs, also known as Transport Specialties Limited, is based in Auckland and is the leading New Zealand distributor of OEM



truck and trailer components. They are SAF-Holland's agents in New Zealand. Transpecs sees definite potential for the aluminium fifth wheel in the New Zealand transport industry which is why they introduced it at this year's Expo.

Transpecs is pleased with how the product was received by visitors at the Expo. Feedback was strong and positive from all the potential customers that stopped at the Transpecs exhibit. Transpecs's Product Manager of Transport Equipment, Chris Scahill, said that after introducing the FWAL Series at the Expo that Transpecs is now looking to test the market to determine the size and shape of the potential customer base.

Transpecs introduced the same product to the Australian market in early 2008. The FWAL Series is now firmly established as a viable option in that market, and Transpecs is hoping to now position the aluminium fifth wheel the same way in the New Zealand market. **TBT**

